



Return of the gladiator
Deadly 'cockfights' erupt in L.A. prison

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Commentators
John Walsh goes to Bayreuth

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THE INDEPENDENT

3,071 THURSDAY 22 AUGUST 1996 WEATHER: Dry, sunny periods 40p (IR45P)

The hat, the cane, the countryside: some things never change



Seat of the mighty: Randolph Churchill, great-grandson of Sir Winston, takes the seat at Chartwell favoured by the wartime leader, pictured right in characteristic pose in 1953 (Magnum) Main photograph: Brian Harris

Grozny's fate; Russia's destiny

PHIL REEVES
Moscow

The struggle for control of Russia and the fate of tens of thousands of sick, marooned and frightened people were last night intertwined as shells started to rain down on the battered city of Grozny.

Even before the attack they have grimly promised for the Chechen capital had started, Russian field commanders were openly defying their own Defence Minister and the head of the country's Security Council, Alexander Lebed, by bombarding civilians.

Their readiness to do so underlines the yawning rift in Russia's armed forces. It is particularly dangerous because of the confusion that has engulfed the government of Russia. The immediate battle for control over policy in Chechnya has become part of the long-term struggle for power in the Kremlin.

The reason for the power-struggle was highlighted by the absence "on holiday" of President Boris Yeltsin, and general perplexity about whether or not he approves of the looming attack. With several of his top officials at each others' throats, President Yeltsin was last night due to fly back from what his staff said was a brief break in the



Boris Yeltsin - ill, exhausted, and completely out of touch. Aides say he's flying home, after a trip to the countryside to find a holiday spot while his government falls apart.

Alexander Lebed - in Chechnya, desperately trying to find someone to obey his orders as the head of the Security Council, and stop the planned bombardment of rebel-held Grozny.

Viktor Chernomyrdin - keeping his head below the parapets of the Kremlin and saying nothing. Lebed is a future rival for the presidency, so Chernomyrdin is happy to watch him squirm.

General Igor Rodionov - the newly elected Defence Minister is standing loyally by his friend Alexander Lebed and opposing the Chechen war. But his generals are not paying any attention to him.

countryside, but which many observers suspect had more to do with his heart trouble than with normal relaxation.

Anxious to dispel the growing impression that he is losing control of his administration, Mr Yeltsin's aides said he would be back at work in the Kremlin today. If so, he will find himself face-to-face with the biggest political and military crisis to hit Russia for months.

His return coincides with the expiry of the deadline set by the acting commander of Russia's forces in Chechnya, General Konstantin Pulikovskiy, who on Monday declared plans for an all-out bombardment of Grozny in a bid to win it back from the control of Chechen rebels.

Quite apart from the human cost of his strategy - tens of thousands of the city's residents remain in basements, in-

cluding many elderly, sick and wounded - it flew in the face of the conciliatory strategy of Mr Lebed, the president's envoy to the war zone.

Yesterday the Defence Minister, Igor Rodionov, firmly aligned himself with Mr Lebed, his ally, by condemning the ultimatum. He said General Pulikovskiy - who has lost a son in the Chechen war - had acted without his knowledge, and had

"been given a dressing down", adding that "someone provoked Pulikovskiy into making the threat".

But murky allegiances seem to be forming in the absence of a clear lead from the top. Pulikovskiy was supported by the general in overall charge of Russian forces in Chechnya, Lieutenant-General Vyacheslav Tichomirov who, after returning from holiday, resumed com-

mand with the grim assertion that the 2,500 rebels holding Grozny would "not live to see further warnings from me". Agency reports from Grozny last night said that buildings were already alight in parts of the city.

Even if today's all-out bombardment is postponed, the issue has exposed the vast gap that now separates the more hardline generals - who are determined not to lose face and who cling to the illusion that the rebels can be crushed - from Mr Lebed and his supporters, who know that the only way forward is a negotiated settlement. And, although the Russian military has long been a hotbed of dissent, the split is highly damaging.

Yesterday Mr Lebed arrived in the war zone in an attempt to reassert his battered authority by getting the ultimatum lifted, a move that would win him huge applause from many liberal Russians, who have been horrified by their generals' latest antics. He also planned to meet the Chechen leadership in an attempt to revive peace talks - an operation in which his chief stumbling block is no longer the machine-gun toting rebels, but senior Russian officials. As *Izvestia* wrote yesterday: "Today's formula is this - federal

troops are not fighting against the separatists. They are fighting to prevent Lebed winning the laurels as the tamer of the Caucasus."

But the crisis has also exposed a remarkable, and still more alarming, paralysis at the top of the Russian government. Astonishingly, it remains unclear where Mr Yeltsin stands on the assault plan. There is some evidence that he is in favour of it, having issued an order to Mr Lebed to restore Russian control in Grozny to the level of 5 August - the day before the rebels stormed in.

But, in a move which is tantamount to admitting that the president is no longer in charge,

Mr Lebed has strongly implied that those orders came not from the President, but from a clique in the Kremlin who are determined to prolong the war, and are willing to forge the presidential signature to do so.

Mr Yeltsin's absenteeism aside, the Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin has remained aloof, even when Mr Lebed demanded the sacking of one of his most senior officials, the Interior Minister, Anatoly Kulikov, last week. And Anatoly Chubais, the president's chief-of-staff - the last official to see any presidential decree before it reaches Mr Yeltsin himself - has been nowhere to be seen.

Grozny flees, page 10

QUICKLY
Pollution promise
The Secretary of State for the Environment, John Gummer, pledged an end to smog within 10 years with the launch of the government's National Air Quality Strategy and announced a series of curbs on motor pollution. Page 5

Global drama
The opening of the new Globe Theatre, on London's South Bank, was plagued by last-minute hitches, as the long-awaited opening performance of *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* gave the audience a taste of drama in an authentic Shakespearean setting. Page 2

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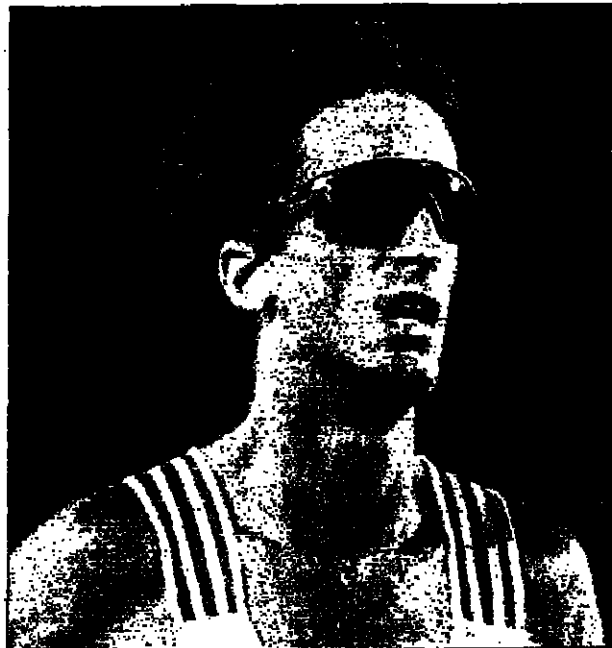
Bravery of the long distance runner as athlete with broken leg wins gold

REBECCA FOWLER

It was the most heroic British Olympic victory of the summer. Noel Thatcher, a partially sighted athlete with a fractured leg, won gold in the 10,000 metres at the Paralympics in Atlanta early yesterday morning, and smashed the world record by 50 seconds.

As stunned spectators at the Atlantic stadium watched, Thatcher ran to first place in 32 minutes and 20.27 seconds. He took Britain's 44th gold medal in the games, as part of a Paralympic team that has already outscored the able-bodied athletes who competed there earlier this summer.

His achievement was praised by Brendan Foster, the former 10,000 metres record holder, who said: "To win a record in that time at the Paralympics is unbelievable, especially under those circumstances. For an able-bodied athlete 50 seconds would be staggering, and it must be a performance of that magnitude, on a par with Michael Johnson's performance."



Triumphant: Noel Thatcher Photograph: Phil Cole / Allsport

Thatcher, 30, a physiotherapist from Harlow in Essex, has spent the last year flying from London to Japan, for sessions

with elite marathon runners who are experts in the psychology of long-distance running. He fractured his shin two

weeks ago under the strain of the rigorous training. He said: "When you've been training for something for four years it's just an amazing feeling to win."

"It took a long time to sink in, that I'd done it, and that I'd broken the record in that time. It was unreal, and it was only when I had breakfast today that it began to feel real."

Thatcher added: "I didn't feel the leg at all while I was running. 'It was only afterwards, and then it was really painful. It's a runners' thing. My coaches in Japan have helped me with the mental preparation for this kind of race, which gave me the strength to keep going."

"I've also never had such an emotive or supportive crowd." Despite the pain in his leg, Thatcher is also determined to run in the 5,000 metres tomorrow and emulate his hero, Emil Zatopek, the Czech athlete who won gold medals in both races at the Helsinki Olympics in 1952.

His shin was put under extra

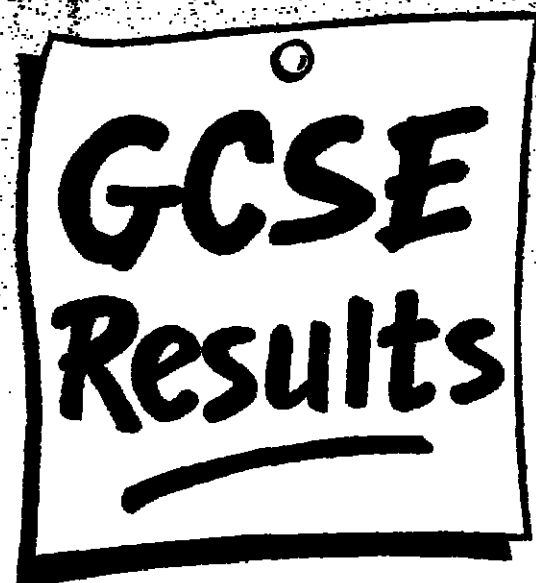
pressure when he agreed to run in Britain's 4x100 relay heat, one hour before the 10,000 metres, to allow a teammate to recover from a hamstring injury.

For Britain, the Paralympics have increasingly brought more glory than the traditional games, where British athletes won only one gold medal this year.

The Paralympic team is set to equal its performance at the last games in Barcelona, where it came third on the medal table, out of 127 countries.

According to Thatcher, it is the strong team spirit among the British athletes that has brought them such an impressive haul of medals.

He said: "It's a brilliant spirit, and it's contagious. Winning is catching on here."



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news

Director struts and frets his hour upon the stage

DAVID LISTER
Arts News Editor

The play's the thing. Only in this case it wasn't. *The Two Gentlemen of Verona* is hardly one of Shakespeare's best-known works, neither was the cast quite the thing. A member playing two parts broke his leg in too rapid a descent of a ladder during the dress rehearsal and had to be replaced before last night's performance.

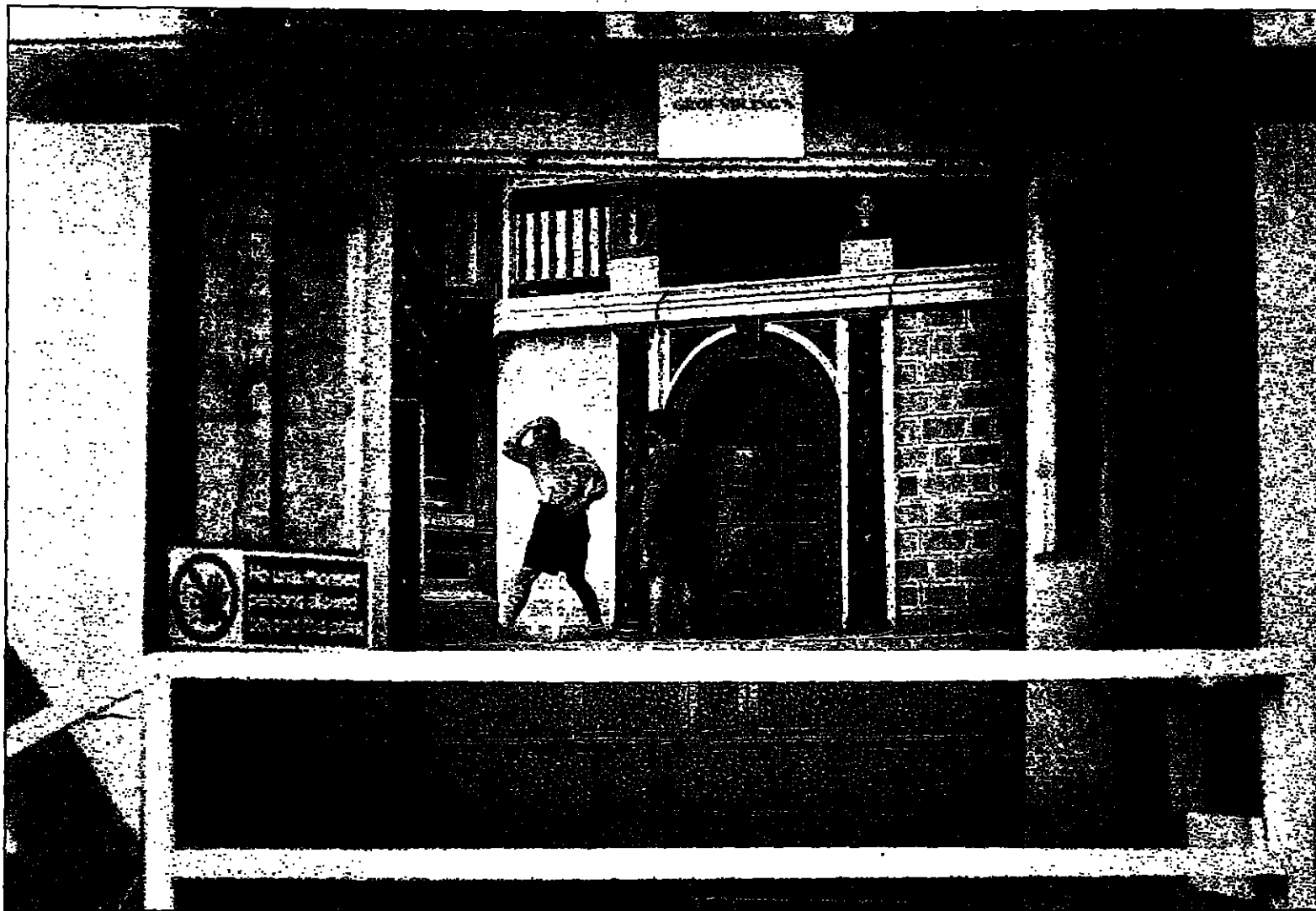
The parking certainly wasn't the thing: facilities seemed no better than when the Puritans closed the theatre in the 1640s and traffic wardens seemed to outnumber celebrity guests. Nor was the food the thing: despite the traditions of the Bankside area, with its alleged historic hostelry, one café was all that could be spied from the riverside.

Advance sales were not exactly the thing: tickets were available for every evening of this first season except last night's opening.

It had to be then that the playhouse was the thing. And so it proved. Though building continues, the dream of the late impresario Sam Wanamaker came to pass last night and the Bard's words were spoken from underneath the wooden O of the 13th Globe Theatre.

Mark Rylance, director and one of last night's *Gentlemen of Verona*, said: "The Globe is to be used ... to rediscover something of the original interpretation of the plays ... this reconstruction is the first opportunity to explore the physical setting and what that contributes to the plays." He has also given his blessing to the crowd, particularly 500 groundlings standing in Elizabethan mode in "the yard".

In the queue, some tension seemed evident within the new class structure of unreserved ticket holders and groundlings. "It will be fascinating to hear the words spoken in this building on a still night," said one UTH. "I hope there's no disturbance. It



Mark Rylance, director of the Globe, (left), in late rehearsals before yesterday's opening of *The Two Gentlemen of Verona*. Photograph: Brian Harris

will depend on the groundlings. A couple of groundlings merely stared at him, conserving their aesthetic aggro.

The audience seemed too overwhelmed by a sense of occasion to do anything so culturally and historically accurate as boo, cheer or make bawdy remarks during speeches. Besides,

pinching the serving wenches in the name of tradition might not strike a literary chord with Southwark magistrates.

So it was a matter of seeing how Shakespeare, as nature intended, in natural light and from the discomfort of a wooden bench or the hard ground could be a new textual and even spiritual experience. For the

audience it was both. First in the groundlings queue were Lila and Sharrla Smith, mother and daughter from Minnesota, visiting England principally to see the new Globe. "This is where we wanted to be. I hear this is where the bawdy things happen. I guess we're the low life," said Sharrla.

Inside, the theatre looked a

stunningly beautiful replica of the original Globe, with three galleries of seating and a courtyard for the groundlings. As in Elizabethan times, servers sold food and drink from baskets unlike Elizabethan times, the drink was non-alcoholic. But the real unforeseen hero of the night was Steven Alvey, replacing George Innes, who

had come down the ladder too fast. Mr Alvey was until last night a plasterer on the site who also occasionally worked in the education centre and had heard the lines so many times he all but knew them by heart. The all-purpose actor/teacher/plasterer was something even Shakespeare would not have foreseen.

SIGNIFICANT SHORTS

More than two-thirds of London Underground services are expected to run during 24-hour strikes tomorrow and next Tuesday after one of the two unions involved in a dispute over hours and pay agreed to accept a peace formula. On the rail network, seven train operators will be hit by stoppages tomorrow and next Tuesday.

Meanwhile, on the eve of a day-long nationwide walkout today by postal workers, union leaders were warned that the business was "looking down the barrel of a gun". John Roberts, chairman of the Post Office, said that continuing action was jeopardising job security. *Barrie Clement*

Detective John Bennett, who headed the Fred West murder inquiry, has arrived in Belgium to assist officers investigating a suspected child abuse ring, met the team working on the disappearance of a clutch of children and the deaths of two, believed to have starved to death.

No one has yet been charged in connection with the girls' deaths. But four people are in custody following last week's rescue of another two girls from a tiny cellar where they had been imprisoned and sexually abused. *Louise Jury*

Wales's oldest man, Griffith Williams, a former Royal Welch Fusilier, who arrested Eamon De Valera, the Irish Republican leader, has died, aged 108. Mr Williams, of Llanfyllen on the Llyn peninsula, north Wales, arrested De Valera, later president of the Irish Republic, while serving with the regiment in Ireland in the First World War and spent a night guarding him in a cell.

Former missionary Jane Cross, thought to be Scotland's oldest woman, died yesterday at the age of 109 in a church home at Helensburgh, Strathclyde.

Makers of the famous Benedictine Buckfast Wine have been fined £3,000 after they admitted some of their brew was not made by monks. The sweet honey and tonic wine, marketed as having been made by monks at their ancient abbey in Devon, is sold all over the world.

But trading standards investigators discovered that some of the tonic wine sold for export had never been to the abbey, despite a label claiming: "Made by Benedictine Monks, Buckfast Abbey". Magistrates at Dorchester, Dorset, heard that batches for the Caribbean were prepared in Bristol, and then bottled in Dorset.

David Blunkett criticised restrictions on debate within the Labour Party, which he said were leading to "bland, slightly boring" politics. The shadow Secretary of State for Education and Employment admitted that now even he sometimes got bored by the nature of the debate.

Camelot plans to launch its own beer and sparkling wine. The National Lottery organiser already markets gifts like key rings and jewellery but believes it could really hit the jackpot by marketing alcohol. Its marketing manager, Robin Bowler, said: "We are looking at options in the area of food and drinks as part of our licensing programme."

The Independent - an apology: The Editor apologises to those readers in some parts of the country whose newspapers were late yesterday. This was caused by mechanical problems beyond our control.

Pure science revives at GCSE

The slimmed-down national curriculum has boosted entries for individual GCSE science subjects, reversing the trend of nearly a decade and raising hopes of an improved take-up of science in the sixth form.

Figures released yesterday by the GCSE exam boards also showed that the proportion of entries getting grades A* to C - the equivalent of a pass in the old O-level - rose by 1 per cent to 53.7 per cent.

In physics, chemistry and biology, entries were up by 6.1 per cent, 6.9 per cent and 5.9 per cent respectively. Entries in all three subjects have fallen by 80 per cent since the GCSE started.

Since then the number of entries for combined science has risen from 150,000 to nearly a

Judith Judd on a trend resulting from the reduction in the curriculum

million but some experts believe the fall in the take-up of individual science subjects has contributed to the drop in numbers taking the subject at A-level. Critics of combined science say it fails to prepare pupils for A-level courses.

Alan Smithers, professor of Public Policy at Brunel University, said the improved entries for individual science were the result of the new slimmed-down curriculum. "The curriculum now gives schools more time and the individual sciences, which take more time than combined science, have revived," he said.

The review of the curriculum two years ago by Sir Ron

Dearing, the Government's education adviser, cut the number of compulsory subjects for pupils aged 14 to 16.

Lord Henley, the schools minister, said: "The GCSE has been tried and tested and has proved its worth in motivating and stretching young people of all abilities. I am particularly pleased to see significant improvements in science and maths results, areas crucial to our national competitiveness."

The overall pass rate for grades A* to G remained the same as in 1995 - 98.6 per cent. As *The Independent* revealed yesterday, the total entry for the GCSE increased by only 1.1 per cent though there was a rise of

3.1 per cent in the 16-year-old population, suggesting that schools are not entering thousands of weaker pupils.

Last night teachers' leaders claimed that the change had been caused by increased competition between schools.

The proportion gaining grades A-C rose slightly in science and maths and stayed much the same in English. Last year, English and maths results

were slightly worse than in the previous year. The percentage awarded an A or A* overall was up by 0.6 per cent.

Entries for technology fell by 30 per cent after the requirement for GCSE-year students to study the subject was temporarily withdrawn. Instead, pupils took home economics, business studies, computing, music and art, the entries for which all increased. Entries for

history were down by 5.3 per cent.

David Blunkett, Labour's education spokesman, said: "We need to have far more people gaining the equivalent of 5 A-C grades, either through GCSE or vocational qualifications, if we are to meet our national targets."

Doug McAvoy, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said: "The GCSE's critics should now pack their bags and skulk away. Their concerns have been addressed."

Weaker pupils sacrificed in grades chase

FRAN ABRAMS
Education Correspondent

Less-able pupils are paying the price for competition in education as schools cut down on the numbers taking GCSEs, teachers' leaders said last night.

As new figures revealed in yesterday's *Independent* suggested that thousands were leaving school at 16 without qualifications, experts were searching for explanations. More than one in eight school leavers does not pass any exams at all, it has emerged.

While some argued that schools were not entering pupils who were likely to fail, others said the reasons why a 3 per cent rise in the number of 16-year-olds had only led to a 1 per cent rise in exam entries were complex.

Improved employment prospects for 16-year-olds, cuts in the number of exams taken by each pupil and increases in exclusions and truancy could all be responsible, it was suggested. Officials argued that league tables were not likely to have caused mass withdrawals because they were based on the proportion of the age group who passed GCSEs, regardless of whether they entered or not. But there were claims that schools were reducing entries in the hope of boosting grades.

However, David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said there was a strong suspicion that schools were concentrating on getting as many pupils as possible through five or more A-C grades, the measure usually used to judge their performance in league tables.

"A competitive education market is bound to produce winners and losers. The tragedy is that the less-able pupils appear to be paying the price," he said. Others argued that the ap-

parent drop in entries could be due to a decrease in the number of pupils taking resits. Alan Smithers, professor of public policy at Brunel University, said that in 1992, 12 per cent of 17-year-olds resat GCSEs. Now, very few did so. Instead, 78,000 took intermediate vocational qualifications in 1994.

Professor Smithers added that some schools might be concentrating on fewer GCSE subjects "in the hope that they might get more C grades". Some headteachers said yesterday that although there were no figures available yet, it was possible that more pupils were leaving at Easter without qualifications to take up jobs. An upturn in the economy might have led to an increase in unskilled employment, they said.

Others blamed the cost of entering pupils for exams for the apparent drop in entries. John Dunford, headteacher of Durham Johnston comprehensive school in Durham and president of the Secondary Heads Association, said his school spent more than £30,000 per year on GCSE exam fees. With a total budget of £300,000, 80 per cent of which went on salaries, the costs represented a major item, he said.

A Department for Education and Employment spokesman suggested that a rise in vocational qualifications or a drop in entries by mature students could account for the shortfall. "We are aware that there are some students leaving school without any qualifications, and we have asked Sir Ron Dearing [Chairman of the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority] to consider what might be done to motivate them. He suggested a qualification for those who are missed out by the GCSE system," he said.

Percentage of candidates obtaining GCSE grades

	No of Candidates	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U
Art & Design	228,852	4.6	16.5	24.3	50.2	77.9	90.4	98.9	99.5	100.0
	(212,478)	(4.1)	(13.1)	(32.9)	(57.2)	(76.1)	(89.5)	(98.9)	(99.4)	(100.0)
Business Studies	114,119	2.1	9.8	23.7	49.1	69.5	81.9	91.3	96.3	100.0
	(85,118)	(1.3)	(9.7)	(26.8)	(46.2)	(67.6)	(83.1)	(92.8)	(98.0)	(100.0)
Classical Civilisation	3,447	6.0	25.9	49.9	74.1	87.7	99.5	99.9	94.4	100.0
	(4,385)	(8.1)	(25.0)	(58.1)	(77.5)	(87.4)	(93.0)	(96.2)	(98.5)	(100.0)
Computing/Info Systems	66,134	2.7	11.4	30.3	55.3	73.3	85.8	93.4	97.1	100.0
	(58,486)	(2.0)	(9.9)	(28.8)	(52.2)	(71.0)	(84.2)	(92.4)	(98.5)	(100.0)
English	12,327	2.6	15.4	30.0	61.7	78.6	87.7	92.8	95.8	100.0
	(11,206)	(2.3)	(12.8)	(27.1)	(59.7)	(76.3)	(87.2)	(94.4)	(97.9)	(100.0)
English Literature	693,009	2.0	11.0	30.3	56.8	78.8	90.5	97.2	99.5	100.0
	(654,480)	(1.3)	(10.8)	(30.3)	(56.9)	(78.9)	(90.8)	(97.3)	(99.5)	(100.0)
French	491,850	2.7	13.9	36.2	63.2	81.1	92.1	97.8	99.5	100.0
	(478,287)	(2.6)	(13.8)	(36.7)	(63.7)	(80.8)	(91.8)	(97.8)	(99.5)	(100.0)
Geography	342,751	4.4	19.2	33.8	51.0	69.2	82.7	93.3	99.3	100.0
	(302,296)	(4.3)	(18.7)	(32.9)	(50.3)	(68.3)	(81.8)	(93.5)	(99.2)	(100.0)
German	300,296	4.0	15.9	33.5	58.7	70.9	84.5	93.7	96.2	100.0
	(286,229)	(3.9)	(14.9)	(32.2)	(53.8)	(69.3)	(83.7)	(93.2)	(98.0)	(100.0)
Greek	12,327	5.7	21.2	36.9	59.5	73.1	85.1	94.6	99.2	100.0
	(12,846)	(5.4)	(21.3)	(36.9)	(54.7)	(72.2)	(84.2)	(93.8)	(99.2)	(100.0)
History	6,502	15.8	34.3	54.7	72.2	84.5	92.1	96.0	99.9	100.0
	(5,985)	(15.0)	(34.3)	(54.7)	(72.2)	(84.5)	(92.1)	(96.0)	(99.9)	(100.0)
Home Economics	97,340	1.5	8.7	23.4	43.2	64.0	81.9	92.2	98.1	100.0
	(84,789)	(1.3)	(8.2)	(22.5)	(41.8)	(62.0)	(80.4)	(92.7)	(98.0)	(100.0)
Italian	5,558	19.0	35.1	60.2	79.8	89.3	94.9	98.3	99.7	100.0
	(5,502)	(18.6)	(35.5)	(60.2)	(77.9)	(87.1)	(93.4)	(97.9)	(99.9)	(100.0)
Latin	12,174	21.1	34.6	57.0	77.0	86.9	92.1	96.0	99.9	100.0
	(12,952)	(19.6)	(36.2)	(57.4)	(82.2)	(89.9)	(98.2)	(99.5)	(99.9)	(100.0)
Mathematics	691,111	2.0	9.0	23.3	48.5	62.9	78.7	91.3	97.8	100.0
	(667,908)	(1.8)	(8.3)	(21.7)	(44.8)	(62.0)	(78.2)	(91.0)	(97.8)	(100.0)
Music	41,801	6.9	24.9	48.6	69.2	82.0	90.9	96.5	99.2	100.0
	(37,808)	(5.9)	(24.1)	(47.7)	(68.5)	(81.0)	(90.0)	(96.0)	(99.1)	(100.0)
Physical Education	79,637	3.9	12.8	27.7	46.4	70.5	87.7	96.2	99.2	100.0
	(68,114)	(3.4)	(12.7)	(27.1)	(45.2)	(69.7)	(87.0)	(95.9)	(99.0)	(100.0)
Religious Studies	118,540	4.4	16.4	35.2	59.9	71.6	82.7	92.4	96.9	100.0
	(108,055)	(3.3)	(15.7)	(35.3)	(56.7)	(71.4)	(83.7)	(92.4)	(97.9)	(100.0)
Russian	1,625	23.6	58.6	72.4	83.6	91.8	95.8	98.9	99.8	100.0
	(1,877)	(19.2)	(58.6)	(69.7)	(79.8)	(87.1)	(93.2)	(97.9)	(99.5)	(100.0)
Science: Biology	48,276	10.5	33.5	63.8	83.4	92.5	97.2	99.0	99.2	100.0
	(45,578)	(9.5)	(32.0)	(62.2)	(82.4)	(91.9)	(96.8)	(99.0)	(99.2)	(100.0)
Science: Chemistry	48,885	10.8	34.2	63.6	86.1	94.0	97.5	99.0	99.2	100.0
	(43,848)	(11.0)	(32.4)	(60.8)	(84.0)	(92.8)	(97.4)	(99.0)	(99.2)	(100.0)
Science: Combined	997,422	3.1	10.2	27.8	48.2	66.6	86.1	95.4	98.4	100.0
	(976,642)	(3.4)	(10.0)	(27.3)	(47.4)	(66.2)	(86.2)	(95.6)	(98.5)	(100.0)
Science: Physics	46,446	13.3	35.3	66.5	85.3	92.9	97.0	98.8	99.0	100.0
	(43,784)	(12.9)	(34.0)	(64.8)	(85.2)	(93.0)	(96.8)	(98.4)	(99.6)	(100.0)
Social Science	4,441	0.7	4.4	15.0	36.9	57.6	72.6	85.8	93.8	100.0
	(3,738)	(0.7)	(4.2)	(14.2)	(34.2)	(56.3)	(73.7)	(88.2)	(95.7)	(100.0)
Spanish	42,592	10.8	28.3	42.5	59.2	74.0	84.4	94.1	97.3	100.0
	(40,591)	(9.7)	(26.3)	(43.0)	(58.7)	(73.7)	(83.9)	(93.4)	(98.6)	(100.0)
Technology	245,132	1.7	8.9	25.5	45.8	66.1	82.6	93.5	98.4	100.0
	(249,971)	(1.3)	(7.6)	(23.2)	(44.1)	(63.9)	(81.0)	(92.6)	(98.2)	(100.0)
Welsh 1st Lang	3,844	1.7	12.0	31.4	60.1	86.3	96.6	98.8	99.6	100.0
	(3,630)	(1.5)	(11.3)	(28.7)	(56.1)	(83.7)	(94.6)	(98.4)	(99.4)	(100.0)
Welsh 2nd Lang	7,846	10.8	28.4	42.5	59.2	74.0	84.4	94.1	97.3	100.0
	(8,180)	(9.7)	(24.0)	(39.3)	(56.8)	(72.4)	(85.7)	(94.9)	(98.2)	(100.0)
Welsh Literature	2,940	3.9	13.8	30.7	57.8	78.2	89.6	94.9	96.0	100.0
	(2,753)	(3.9)	(11.7)	(29.1)	(55.1)	(73.3)	(88.9)	(94.2)	(98.1)	(100.0)
Mod Langs Total	524,738	5.1	20.9	35.8	53.1	70.8	83.8	94.1	99.2	100.0
	(514,973)	(5.0)	(20.5)	(35.0)	(52.4)	(69.9)	(82.7)	(93.6)	(99.2)	(100.0)
Sciences Total	1,138,029	4.2	13.2	32.4	52.8	72.7	87.5	95.9	98.5	100.0
	(1,028,683)	(4.2)	(12.8)	(31.9)	(51.8)	(72.0)	(87.5)	(95.9)	(98.5)	(100.0)
All Major Subjects	5,075,143	3.4	13.6	31.5	53.7	74.4	86.0	94.8	98.6	100.0
	(4,971,657)	(3.2)	(13.0)	(30.7)	(52.7)	(71.5)	(85.5)	(94.8)	(98.6)	(100.0)

(The figures in brackets are the equivalent provisional figures for 1995)

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Forget the suburban semi in its leafy setting - the city centre terraced house is the design for modern living, minister says



Street life: (from left) Rita Tushingham in the 1960s kitchen-sink drama *A Taste of Honey* Photograph: Ronald Grant; The BBC TV sitcom *Till We Do Part*, set in a terraced house in Wapping; and Lambeth Walk in south London (Photograph: Hulton Getty)

A Coronation Street for every town

ANTHONY BEVINS
Political Editor

The terraced house, urban home to millions of families for 150 years, is one of the government's solutions to the problem of how to meet the demand for 4.4 million new homes over the next 20 years.

Ministers want to see more terraced housing and fewer cars in town and city centres and a cutbacks in the number of edge-of-town estates of semi-detached houses. The Government is being forced to face up to an impending planning crisis that is being generated by deep-seated social change.

Within 20 years it is possible that only one-fifth of all households will contain married couples with dependent children. And it is estimated that 80 per cent of the 4.4 million new households will contain just one person.

Offering the terraced house as one solution to the problem, Robert Jones, Planning Minister at the Department of the Environment, says in the latest issue of *Parliamentary Review* that higher-density housing in the towns and cities could help to ease development pressure on the countryside.

"But what do we mean by higher density? To me it means that the future holds a major role for the terraced house."

"It does not mean tower blocks. High density does not have to mean high-rise. Ter-

racied housing with a garden - the staple of London housing - is very versatile, especially if well-designed. "Some of the properties can be left as family houses. Or they can be converted into one or two-bedroom flats with gardens, roof terraces, or, in some cases, perhaps with no outside space."

Mr Jones, who also urged greater use of vacant industrial or office space for housing in towns and cities, said that one of the problems was that flat conversions would not necessarily have space for parking.

But he added: "Car parking standards should not rule our lives nor preclude housing opportunities for those in housing need. Indeed, there may be circumstances, particularly new development in areas of high public transport accessibility and conversions in town centres, where 'car free' housing could be an option."

Mr Jones was adding his thoughts to a "Places for People" debate started by Environment Secretary John Gummer in June, when he told the Royal Town Planning Institute's annual conference in Brighton that the country had to consider the implications of a projected increase in the number of households, from 19.2 million in 1991 to 23.6 million by 2016.

"Increases of more than a quarter were projected for the East Midlands, the Eastern region, the South-east and South-

west, with a projected increase of 22 per cent for London.

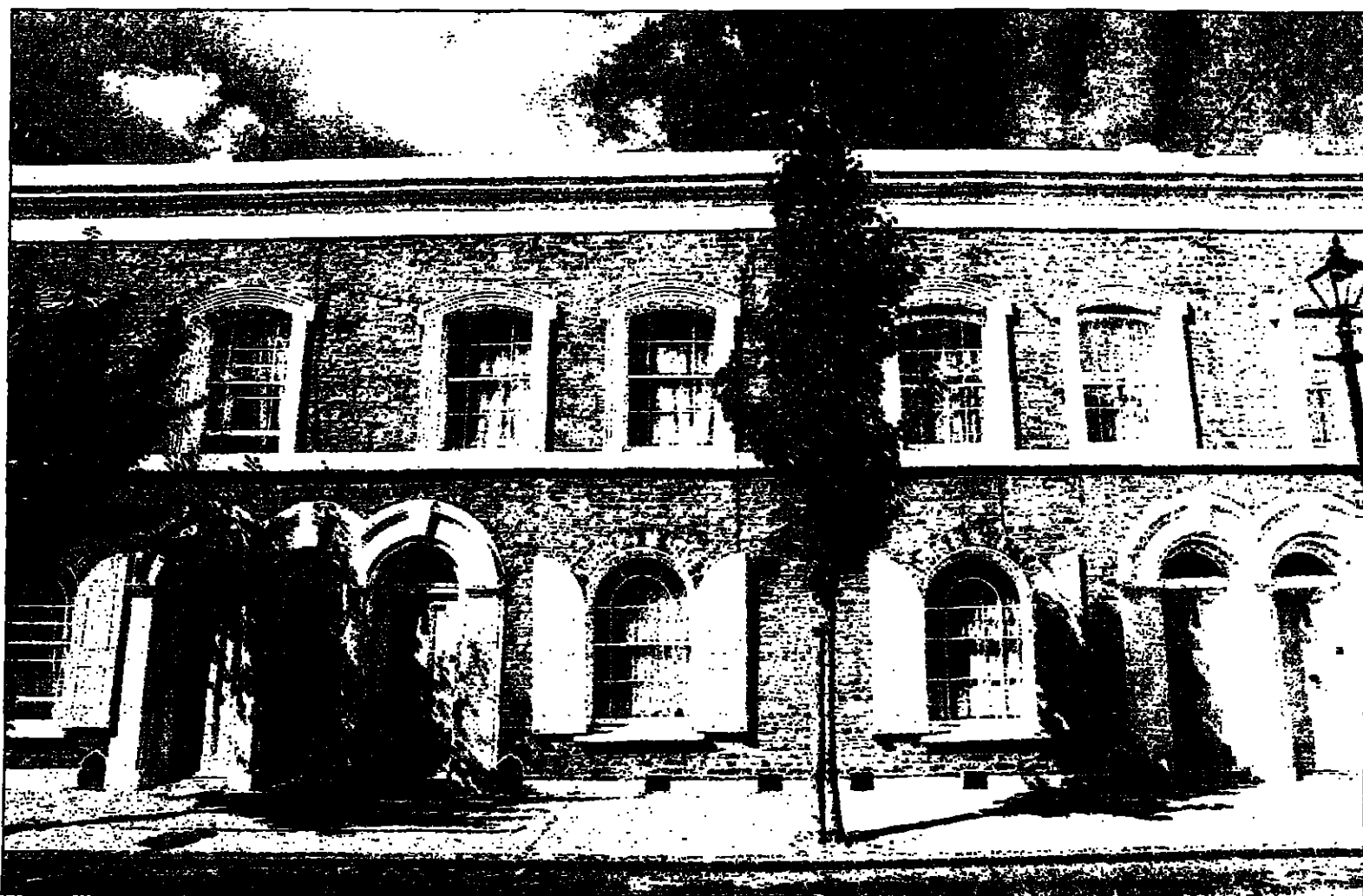
While population growth has slowed in recent years, the number of households has been growing faster than ever - because the size of the average household is getting smaller.

Mr Gummer said: "Of the 4.4 million new households, almost 80 per cent, 3.5 million, is expected to come from one-person households." He added: "The potential environmental cost of hundreds of thousands of new homes spreading across the countryside to accommodate the cumulative effects of modern lifestyles has to be faced. We who live on a small island have nowhere to hide."

"The implications for us, in helping to build places for people, are enormous. So let's accept the need for real debate on the central issues of household formation and the impact on demand for new homes."

Identifying some of the main causes of household growth, he said that people were not only living longer, but they were also healthier and wealthier and therefore able to live longer in their own homes. The young, who generally wanted a "place of their own", were remaining single for longer - and there was the increase in family break-up.

On present trends, he said, family breakdown would result in less than a fifth of all households being married couples with dependent children over the next 20 years.



Perfectly preserved: A row of houses in Cyprus Street, Bethnal Green, east London, dating from the 1830s

Photograph: Paul Bulley

Grand facades and little boxes, beloved of a million Pooters

JACK O'SULLIVAN

Robert Jones sounds like a *Coronation Street* fan. His image of terraced streets emptied of cars, a road fit for children kicking a ball about, conjures up the kind of Rovers Return, where a sense of community thrives. Terracing is probably the single most important reason why this is the most intimate of television soap operas.

When Channel 4's *Brookside* was launched in a close of semi-detached houses, none of the characters initially knew each other. Even *EastEnders* feels like a more fragmented place than its Granada rival. The reason: it's in a square, whereas *Coronation Street* is rooted in the terraced row.

We feel nostalgic for ways that spring from living at such close quarters. *Coronation Street* is where people from different classes can mix. "Ken Barlow

may be head of English at a secondary school," says Paul Marquess, story editor of the series, "but he can still live three doors down from Gary and Judy Mallett, who are very loud, very common, lots of fun and living in a different world."

This is Britain at ease with itself, where alienation and breakdown are thwarted by architectural design.

Or perhaps Mr Jones has been listening to Radio Four's readings this week of *The Diary of a Nobody*, fictional reminiscences of Charles Pooter, whose efforts at social climbing from his Holloway terrace have amused generations. His witless chime with a London middle class busily refurbishing run-down terraces, stripping doors, cherishing "original features" and creating grandeur in homes built for Victorian aspirants. There is an enduring fascination with this peculiarly

Big or small, the terraced home is where the British heart is

English form of housing, which has dominated the urban landscape for two centuries.

In continental Europe, urban dwellers contented themselves with flats. In Britain (apart from Scotland) we wanted that little house with a garden. By 1911, nearly nine out of 10 Britons lived in some sort of row or another after a staggering period of building designed to accommodate a rise in the population of England and Wales to 36 million from 9 million a century before.

The terrace was the perfect solution. Most important, it was, says Martin Pawley, former editor of *World Architecture*, "fast and cheap to build with only two external walls and a roof that crossed from one house to another". The term "terrace" covered a great va-

riety, from the grand classical facades of west London, Bath, Brighton and Cheltenham to the slums of the East End and the northern industrial cities. But they made it possible for all to live close to the booming cities.

The arrival of the suburban railways at the end of the nineteenth century signalled the end of the great boom in the terrace. Cheap fares and the car enabled workers to commute to the cities while living in semi-detached or even detached homes. Likewise, the appalling conditions in back-to-back terraces, home to the poorest, lent support to the post-war modern movement's desire to demolish the poorest housing which the Luftwaffe had not already bombed.

The middle-class variety also became the subject of disdain,

as the folk singer Pete Seeger sang: "Little boxes, little boxes/And they are all made of ticky tacky/Little boxes, little boxes/And they all look just the same."

But the alternatives have won few hearts. For the poor, system-built concrete high-rises have been so abysmal as to prompt a rethink. Among the middle-classes, taking over the better terraces, there has been an appreciation of the flexibility of older housing. "We have the technologies," says Mr Pawley, "to make pretty unbearable housing bearable in the centre of cities. We take out chimneys, install central heating, convert attics in rooves, put in dormer windows."

Ben Derbyshire, partner with London-based HTA Architects, says he is a "serious en-

thusiast" for the terrace. "When we are asked to replace demolished high-rise estates, the first thing we do is examine the nineteenth-century street plans showing what the area was like before slum clearance. We often reintroduce old streets.

When you look at our schemes and those in Victorian times, sometimes it's hard to tell the difference."

Terraces, he argues, are safer because they are hard to burgle from the back and because so many other homes look on to the front. Schemes in London's East End, Islington and Coin Street are largely faithful

to Victorian principles. Ironically, in Hulme, a Manchester district near the area upon which *Coronation Street* was modelled 35 years ago, the Sixties concrete crescent blocks are being demolished.

The replacements look remarkably similar to where Ken Barlow and the Malletts continue to thrive.

Apathy rules with the young voter

BARRIE CLEMENT
Labour Editor

POLITICAL parties face an uphill task to persuade young people to vote in the next General Election, according to a poll conducted by Mori.

Only two in five 18-24 year olds are "certain or very likely" to vote compared with a turnout of more than half in 1992.

The pollsters, who were conducting the research on behalf of the TUC, discovered a widespread apathy among young electors but also found that the highest level of support went to Labour. The survey found that 41 per cent would always or normally vote for Labour, compared with 16 per cent Conservative and 11 per cent Liberal Democrat.

Another poll conducted by NOP for the TUC in May helps explain youngsters' apathy. When asked how well politicians understood what working life was really like, 45 per cent said "not very well". A further 24 per cent said "not at all well".

The measure of support for Labour in the latest poll was

highest in Wales with 65 per cent, the North 54 per cent, Scotland, 52 per cent and London 47 per cent. Only one in three in the Midlands and one in four living in South or East Anglia supported Labour.

Backing for the Tories is higher in the South and among full-time workers on a permanent contract. Around one in three young people earning more than £150 a week say they would always or normally vote Conservative, compared with one in six young people as a whole.

One in ten young people said they would always or normally vote Liberal Democrat and this rose to one in five in the South.

While the survey results will make disappointing reading for Labour politicians who are expected to attract most of the votes among the young, John Monks, TUC general secretary, said the findings were most depressing for the Conservatives.

There was little to please trade unions in the research material and no sign that young

people were reverting to collectivist attitudes in the face of a tougher work environment. There was considerable pessimism about the future quality of life and job prospects for young people in Britain but an optimism about their own future employment.

The survey found nearly three-quarters of the youngsters surveyed did not meet the "two year rule" qualifying period for legal protection against unfair dismissal. Half of respondents cited instances of unfair treatment at work with the most commonly mentioned examples low pay and "poor treatment by management".

However union leaders did not emerge with their reputations enhanced. Some 22 per cent of respondents thought they were out of touch with the world of work.

There was a substantial degree of support for Labour policies. Some 78 per cent wanted a national minimum wage to protect employees from exploitation and 90 per cent agreed they should have the right to be represented.

Alleged rapist questions victim at Old Bailey

HELEN NOWICKA

An Old Bailey jury was last night considering its verdict in a rape trial in which the victim spent six days in court answering questions from her alleged assailant.

Ralston Edwards was able to cross-examine the 34-year-old woman as he had chosen to defend himself.

Mr Edwards denies three charges of rape and one of buggery, claiming that the woman consented to sex.

During her questioning by Mr Edwards, the woman told him: "Throughout my ordeal I was trying to stay calm and not rile you. I wanted to get away but you raped and sodomised me."

Robert Holt, prosecuting, claimed in court that Mr Edwards, 42, started talking to the woman, a mother of two, outside Lewisham station, south London, in December.

She had tried to shake him off but he followed her onto a bus and, when she alighted, pursued her into an alleyway where he

began to grope her, said Mr Holt. "She was absolutely petrified. But she thought it best to co-operate, and asked if there was somewhere else they could go."

The prosecution say the woman had planned to attract someone's attention as she walked to Mr Edwards' flat, a squat, in nearby Catford - but the streets were deserted.

She had feared for her life, thinking he had a gun in his holdall. In fact the condom salesman's bag contained 900 prophylactics.

The woman told the jury that she had pleaded with her captor as he pushed her onto a bare mattress on the floor, but he had ignored her.

When Mr Edwards eventually fell asleep she ran to a nearby garage where employees called the police.

Since the alleged attack the woman said she has received psychiatric care and is living at a secret address.

The jury is expected to return a verdict today.

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Rebellion looms for weavers as personal contracts arrive in capitalism's last outpost

MICHAEL STREETER

The croft-based weavers of Harris tweed fabric in the Hebrides have finally come up against the rigours of modern competitive business practices.

The Harris tweed fabric, famed among *soi-disant* aristocrats around the world, is at the centre of a dispute after its main producers suffered a mini-rebellion by crofters.

The Macleod-Mackenzie mill group on the adjoining islands of Harris and Lewis, who control 90 per cent of the £11m market, have placed adverts in a local newspaper urging weavers to work solely for them.

Seeking a network of "premier weavers", the company says: "In view of the close nature of this relationship, it would be inappropriate for Premier Weavers to have any fi-

nanacial or management interest in any other organisation producing Harris Tweed."

However, representatives of the 400 weavers on the islands have set up this summer a co-operative called Harris Tweed Weavers Co, which aims to cash in on an expanding market expected to be worth £50m by the year 2000.

They have complained to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, stating that the

Macleod group is trying to corner the market. A spokesman, John Morrison, said Macleod's plans would benefit some crofters but would leave others "twiddling their thumbs".

The co-op director, Donald Morrison, retorted: "This sort of thing goes against the spirit of weaving as a community industry."

"The aim should be to get as much work as possible for the

islands' weavers - not for mills to try to do each other down."

The immediate dispute is over £10m of European Union grants to help to convert the traditional 75cm hand looms to 150cm looms, which is the standard now adopted by the clothing industry.

Macleod-Mackenzie say their moves are an attempt to guarantee work and increase business but deny they are only offering personal contracts.

"People can work for other people as well," said a spokesman.

Harris Tweed is made from pure new wool and is handmade by crofters at their homes. It is known as a hardwearing fabric widely used in tailoring, fashion and furnishings.

The anxiety over the moves towards exclusive working was reflected by one Lewis weaver yesterday who said he and his fellow weavers were now "really

confused and worried" over the best way forward for them to secure work.

"I think we all want to be independent but we also want steady work," said the 44-year-old weaver.

"Whatever we decide to do, we will be upsetting someone."

The co-operative's leaders formally took action and reported the offer of personal contracts by the group, an amalgamation of the long-es-

ablished mills run by Kenneth Macleod Ltd and Kenneth Mackenzie Ltd, to the MMC.

Their letter to the commission says a near-monopoly supplier is raising significant barriers to the entry of new competitors by undertaking restrictive practices.

The MMC said last night that they could only consider a reference from the Department of Trade and Industry and they were aware of no such request.



Croft originals: A weaver in the Hebrides (left) and some of the sheep that provide the industry's raw material



Photograph: Bill Lucas

Anti-pollution strategy aims to banish smog

NICHOLAS SCHOON
Environment Correspondent

An end to smogs within 10 years was promised yesterday by the Environment Secretary John Gummer as he launched the Government's National Air Quality Strategy.

He foresaw a future in which "there are more families with just one car, more families who manage without owning a car, and more hiring of cars".

But environmentalists were upset and the car industry relieved to find the 188-page document contained no firm commitments to radical new measures for restraining vehicle use or curbing their emissions, which it identifies as one of the main causes of air pollution.

The strategy is largely a re-statement of existing policies and legislation, the most important of which flow from European Union laws. It does, however, set new standards for the eight most important types of air pollutant which pose the biggest threat to human health.

The aim is to achieve these standards by 2005, which would eliminate summer and winter smogs. "In the first decade of the next century, children will begin to say to their parents 'what was smog?'" said Mr Gummer. These standards, among the toughest in the world, were proposed by a committee of health and air quality experts that the Government appointed for the purpose.

The document warns, how-

ever, that some of the measures "should... be regarded as provisional". It makes clear that any extra action to improve air quality, over and above what the Government was already committed to before yesterday's launch, will only go ahead if the costs outweigh the benefits.

But it also confirms that the

Ozone hot-spots

Britain's worst air-pollution hot-spots include a rural village in the constituency of the Secretary of State for the Environment, John Gummer. The village of Siston, near the Suffolk coast, has the highest recorded level of ozone pollution in Britain, according to the Department of the Environment, which emphasised that air pollution was not just a city problem.

Ozone comes from vehicle emissions reacting with sunlight. The worst urban spot in Britain, according to the department, is Cromwell Road in London.

damage done by pollution is enormous. Several thousand people die prematurely each year, and up to 20,000 are admitted to hospital. There are also "many thousands of instances of illness, reduced activity, distress and discomfort". The costs of this ill health, along with damage to buildings, crops, wildlife and habitats is estimated to range from £5bn to

over £13bn a year in Britain.

Local councils are being given new duties to monitor pollution, and, where the air quality standards are not being met, to set up Air Quality Management Areas. But it has not yet been decided what enforcement powers they will be given.

Councils can, for instance, restrict the use of roads in their area during smogs to improve air quality. But the document makes clear that it does not expect them to do this, because it would usually make little difference. The traffic would divert on to other roads, and produce just as much or more pollution.

The Government promises to consider allowing councils to tax non-residential car parking spaces and introduce schemes charging for road use. But ministers are far from convinced that such powers are needed, and no time has been set aside in the remaining legislative timetable before the election.

Ministers are also committed to produce regulations allowing local council staff to carry out road-side checks on vehicles suspected to be producing illegal quantities of exhaust fumes.

The National Society for Clean Air said the strategy would fail without increased taxation of vehicles which cause more than average pollution - and tax breaks for cleaner ones.

Labour dismissed the strategy as "too little, too late" and the Liberal Democrats accused Mr Gummer of passing the buck to local authorities.

Go-ahead for CS spray splits police chiefs

JASON BENNETTO
Crime Correspondent

Two chief constables are refusing to arm their officers with CS spray because of the possible side-effects despite the announcement yesterday that forces throughout England and Wales have been given the go-ahead to carry the incapacitant.

The decision by police in Surrey and Hertfordshire not to introduce the French-made device will be seized upon by civil rights groups who have been campaigning for more tests to be carried out on the CS sprays.

But despite the reservations police chiefs in England and Wales yesterday declared a six-month trial involving 3,800 officers in 16 forces a success. Test showed that many officers were now using the spray rather than batons. Most of the 43 forces in England and Wales are expected to start large-scale training

and equipping staff with the spray by the end of the year, although several have yet to make up their minds.

During the first five months of the trials the hand-held CS spray, which temporarily disables assailants by causing streaming eyes and noses, eyelid spasms and breathing difficulties, was used 582 times. In about 10 per cent of the cases it had little or no effect. In a further 350 instances a spray was drawn but not fired, suggesting it is a powerful deterrent. Five people needed hospital treatment but no one suffered long-term damage. Surveys found strong support for the CS among police and the public.

The decision to allow the nationwide use of CS, which was endorsed yesterday by Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, was called into question by at least two police forces. Both Surrey and Hertfordshire have

expressed concern about the possible effects on officers and innocent bystanders, as well as contamination of clothing and vehicles which may affect people several hours after firing.

Peter Sharpe, Chief Constable of Hertfordshire Police, said: "I'm keen to ensure that my officers are safe when they use it. There have been reports of officers receiving reddening and burning of the face after using the spray."

Surrey police are particularly worried about the propellant used in the spray, which they believe is harmful. They are currently trying to develop an alternative CS spray.

Fiona Power, of the Newham Monitoring Project in east London, attacked yesterday's decision and called for the spray to be banned. "Officers have consistently failed to follow their own guidelines on the use of the spray," he said.

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Three-billion-year-old Martians spotted in South Kensington

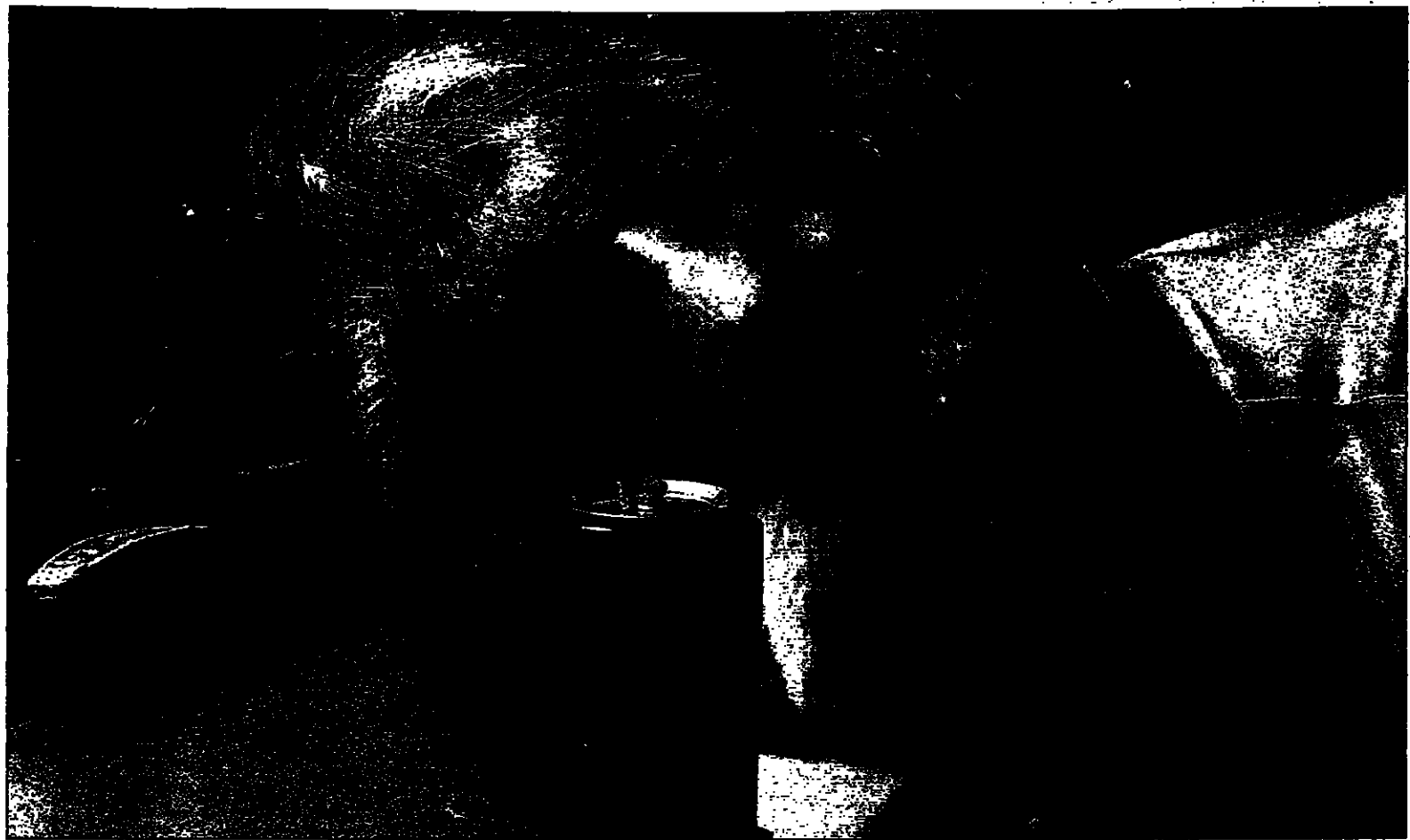
The Martians have landed... perhaps. The Natural History Museum in London yesterday opened a two-month exhibition containing a fragment of rock from the meteorite that first led scientists to suggest that life may have developed on Mars billions of years ago, writes Charles Arthur.

Two weeks ago, a team from the US space agency Nasa announced that they thought they had found traces of the remains of early cellular life in meteorite ALH 84001. The meteorite was knocked off Mars about three billion years ago, and landed in Antarctica about 14,000BC.

The news led to a surge in enquiries at the Natural History Museum, where researchers had earlier looked at pieces from the meteorite. They first identified the carbonate deposits which led the Nasa scientists to examine it in detail.

"We feel it's important that we communicate to visitors the work that goes on behind the scenes," said a spokeswoman for the museum yesterday. "This is, after all, a leading scientific research institute."

The exhibition contains a fragment from ALH 84001 displayed under a microscope connected to a video screen, and a fist-sized piece of another Martian meteorite discovered in Egypt earlier this century. Visitor numbers at the museum have leapt by 50 per cent.



Close encounter: Cosmic mineralogist Dr Robert Hutchison spies the meteoric evidence at the Natural History Museum. Photograph: Andrew Buurman

University labs 'left unsafe by cash cuts'

CHARLES ARTHUR
Science Editor

Drastic cuts in universities' funding are turning their science laboratories into dangerous, antiquated places that do not give students the necessary experience to compete in industry, leading scientists say.

Despite a large increase in GCSE passes in science subjects announced yesterday, universities face a £400 million cut over the next three years in their grant for capital equipment, which is vital to keep laboratories equipped and functioning.

The result of the cut, which represents a 30 per cent fall in funding, is likely to be lower-quality teaching and an exodus of science staff from higher education, said Sir Derek Roberts, provost of University College London (UCL). "If you starve a sheep, you don't wonder whether you lose the mutton first or the wool. You lose the whole animal."

Government claims that universities could attract funding from industry, through schemes like the Private Finance Initiative, are also fallacious, Sir Derek said. "They want to fund research, not a new workshop. They pay corporation tax, and they think, as do we, that the Government should properly fund the universities' infrastructure to do research."

Professor David King, head of chemistry at Cambridge University, said health and safety regulations were being ignored in laboratories all over Britain.

"I believe that much of the research going on in British chemistry departments today is very, very close to the bone in terms of health and safety," he told a

press briefing in London. "Much of it might well have to be closed down if investigations are made."

Undergraduates' lack of practical experience, caused by equipment shortages on their courses, is already having a dramatic impact on British industrial competitiveness, Sir Derek added. "Unless told me recently that if you get a graduate from Holland and one from the UK, you can immediately tell the difference between them when you put them in a lab. The Dutch one will be able to do useful work from day one because they've trained on the same sort of equipment during their course."

A survey by the University of Manchester concluded that universities needed an immediate funding rise of £474 million to bring their leading research laboratories up to contemporary standards.

The Department for Education said: "It is up to the universities how they spend their budgets. It is true that capital funding has been cut but it's because of the opportunities to get private finance."

The root of the problem, according to Sir Derek and a number of eminent academics, is that the Government wants to produce increasing numbers of science graduates using the same or fewer staff on shrinking amounts of cash.

Peter Mobbs, deputy head of the physiology department at UCL, said "My laboratory has not had a major refurbishment in 25 years. I am sure that some of the procedures we carry out would be classed as unsafe if anybody ever came to look at them."

Gnashing time of T rex revealed

CHARLES ARTHUR

Just as in the film *Jurassic Park*, *Tyrannosaurus rex* could bite hard. A dispute between dinosaur experts has been resolved by scientists in California who have shown the 20-foot carnivore had jaws easily powerful enough to rip apart a struggling triceratops, for example.

For many, *T rex* is the epitome of the terrifying dinosaur, but some palaeontologists said its tiny arms meant it must have scavenged rather than hunted. Others said its teeth and jaws did not look strong enough to tear apart a live victim.

But Gregory Erickson and colleagues at the University of California at Berkeley put the dinosaur's teeth to the test. They found the bones of a triceratops killed 70 million years ago by a tyrannosaur and made impressions of the tooth marks using dental putty, which they used to get casts of a *T rex* tooth. They were serrated like the giant carnivore's, and curved backwards.

However, it was not immediately obvious whether those

were enough to finish off other animals. "The triceratops bones were spongy and wasn't clear whether it took a strong bite to do this," said Prof Erickson, whose work is published today in the *Nature* science journal.

He found that a cow's pelvis was similar in strength and structure to a triceratops's, so he put one in a mechanical loading frame, made a model of the tyrannosaur teeth and pushed them into the bone to the same depth as the indentations found in the triceratops.

The loader measured the stress required, which, Prof Erickson said, was very large. "It's more force than you see in any animal tested to date, which includes lions and sharks." But Prof Erickson said the findings still do not prove that *T rex* was a bold hunter as opposed to a scavenger. "I think what we need to do is find bite marks like when big cats like cougars attack prey. If you were to find bite marks on dinosaurs from *T rex* from some sort of a killing bite like this, then you could say it was a predator."

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90 Day Notice	£2,000	3.76%	3.17%	3.08%	n/a

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DAILY POEM

Postcard from a Travel Snob

By Sophie Hannah

*I do not wish that anyone were here.
This place is not a holiday resort
with karaoke nights and pints of beer
for drunken tourist types - perish the thought.*

*This is a peaceful place, untouched by man -
not like your seaside-town-consumer-hell.
I'm sleeping in a local farmer's van -
it's great. There's not a guest house or hotel*

*within a hundred miles. Nobody speaks
English (apart from me and rest assured,
I'm not your sun-and-sangria-two-weeks
small-minded-package-phillistine-abroad).*

*When you're as multi-cultural as me,
your friends become wine connoisseurs, not drunks.
I'm not a British tourist in the sea;
I am an anthropologist in trunks.*

Sophie Hannah's sizzling first collection *The Hero and the Girl Next Door* (Corgi) was published last year to rave reviews. It went to four editions and Hannah found herself lauded as the brightest young female poet of the decade, which is probably correct. Her second collection *Hotels like Houses* is published next month.

Corgi are still trying to rebuild their catalogue mailing lists in the wake of the Manchester bomb of 15 June which destroyed their Corn Exchange offices. If you were on the mailing list and would like to be reinstated, you should telephone 0161 834 8730.

سكرا من الاميل

edited by David Lister

arts news

Encased in porcelain, her squashed hedgehogs live to fight another day

CLARE GARNER

The British are great animal lovers. They treasure their collections of miniature ornaments; their mantelpieces are lined with china badgers, owls, foxes and weasels. Sadly the roads are all too often decorated with nothing but the carcasses of the real-life versions.

Peggy Atherton, a 27-year-old protest artist, feels that the number of "road-kills" flies in the face that any suggestion that we are fond of our furry friends. To ram home her point she turns the dead animals into art.

Her "ghostly ornaments" which are "so much more beautiful", even when dead, than china equivalents will form part of the forthcoming anti-car exhibition to be held at Newbury, Berkshire.

Art Bypass: Road Works, which takes place this Sunday on a mile-long stretch of unspoilt farmland adjacent to the proposed Newbury bypass route, is designed to highlight the destructiveness of the car.

Miss Atherton, a Bath College of Higher Education graduate, scrapes off the road any animal that she finds has been run over – be it a squashed frog, sparrow or hedgehog, or something larger like a fox or badger – and takes it back to her north London studio, where she dips it in porcelain and fires it in her kiln at 900C. Any flesh, feathers or fur burns to ash and the ceramic retains the perfect shape of the creature inside.

Cast in the positions in which they died, some of the animals are too mangled to recognise.

"I get really upset," said Miss Atherton. "I find it really tragic, especially when I find owls and badgers and hedgehogs. They just don't bring any grief to anyone yet they seem to be killed constantly on the road because of careless driving. I've never actually seen an owl or badger alive. I feel really sickened and it drives me on."

She has cremated more than 100 animals since she started peeling her subjects off the road two years ago. She said: "I was driving down the countryside one day and saw so many animals and thought 'I want to do something for them'. I'm trying to give them their last rites. I suppose it's like a tomb. I was trying to think of a way of giving them a ceremony and linked it with the idea of ornamentation in the home. We have animals as ornaments but we treat the five ones with such little respect and don't really think anything of their environment."

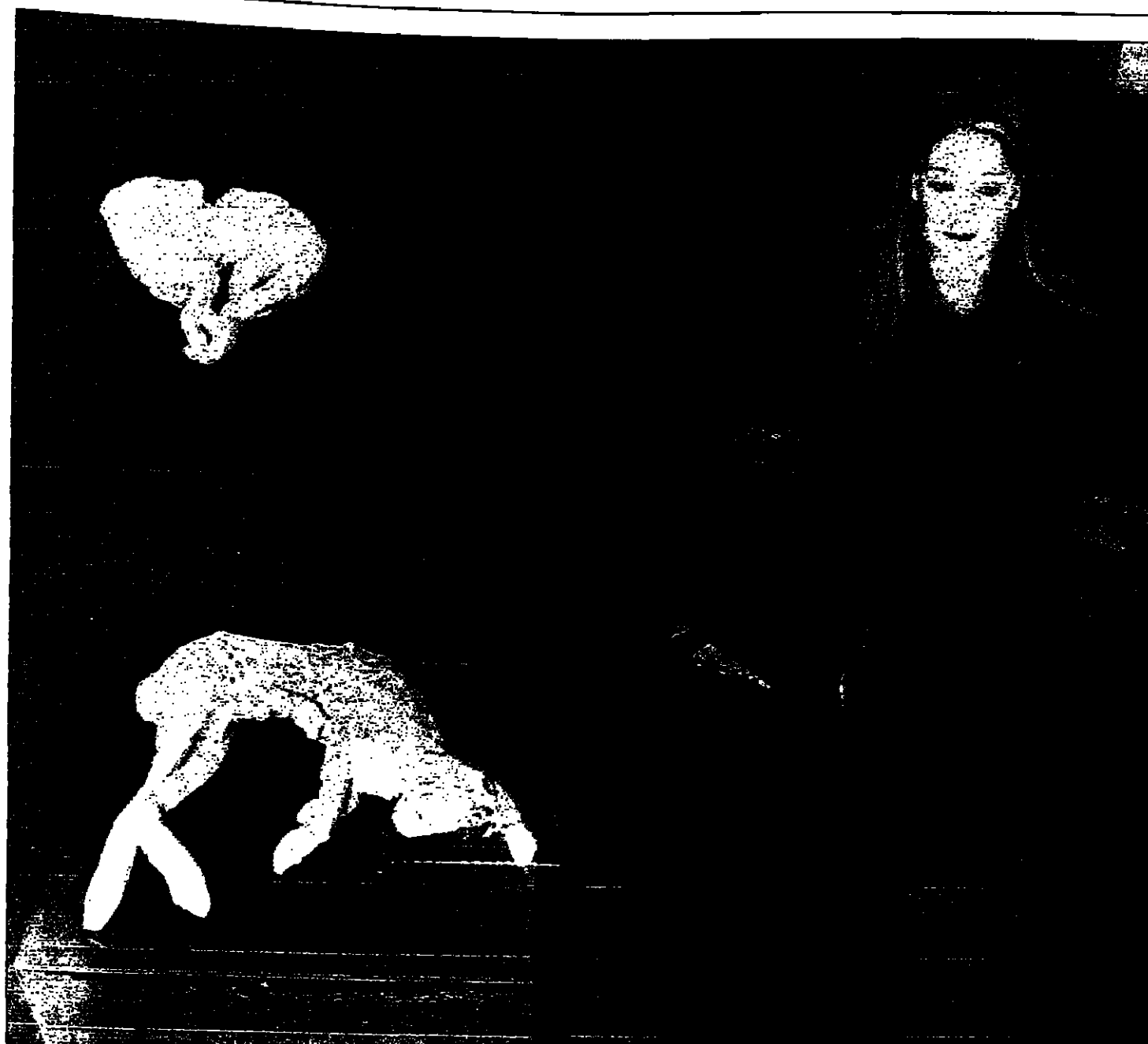
Before her present exhibition at The Cut Gallery in London, Miss Atherton would always return the ceramic animals to the place where she found them. "It was my own little protest," she said. "I wanted to capture the moment of the 'road kill'. I wanted the person who ran them over to drive back along the same road and see the animal on the road. It's like a memory which will prick people's consciences."

So far she has sold two works – a weasel for £350 and a blackbird for £300 to a couple from London. "They just they were so beautiful," she said. "Rather than having a fake animal they wanted to have the real thing. They wanted people to think 'It's a road kill' every time they saw them."

Art Bypass, organised by Friends of the Earth and the Life Arts Research Centre the University of Brighton, plans to include sculpture, performance, land art and film which will provide "An interactive journey through a virtual motorway experience". Christo and Jeanne Claude, world famous for wrapping up landscapes and landmarks such as the Reichstag and the Sydney coastline, are among the participating artists. Their wrapped Volvo 122-S Sport Sedan will form part of the show.

A Friends of the Earth spokesman said: "Art Bypass asks fundamental questions about our relationship with the motor car. By staging this significant arts event adjacent to the bypass route at Newbury we hope to explore whether wider audience the reality of what nine miles of motorway will mean to this landscape."

Meanwhile, Miss Atherton cannot see an end in sight. She does not think she will ever be able to stop creating animals. She keeps finding them on the road and is riddled with guilt if she ignores them. "It's taken over. It's quite strange. If I don't pick them up I feel like I haven't given them their last rites."



Froggy notion: Being squashed by a car doesn't have to be the end of the road, thanks to Peggy Atherton Photograph: Jane Baker

Lottery cash gives the disabled a role in arts

CHRIS MOWBRAY

The Arts Council has launched an apprenticeship scheme for disabled people who want to work in the arts, following the discovery that 0.02 per cent of the 500,000 people employed in the subsidised arts have a disability compared with 14.2 per cent in society generally.

The turnaround in thinking within arts organisations has been caused by the availability of National Lottery funding for capital projects and the strings which have been attached to it.

Pressure groups are hailing a new era which will at last recognise disability among both audiences and arts workers. They say the policy has gained more for disabled arts enthusiasts in 18 months than has been achieved over a decade of traditional lobbying and campaigning. Organisations applying for lottery money are simply being turned away unless they

guarantee their new projects will be fully accessible to the disabled.

"These developments are completely transforming accessibility in the arts for disabled people," said Geoff Armstrong, director of the National Disability Arts Forum. "We have been fighting for this for 10 years and now the doors are starting to open. It is beginning to click that disabled people are potential audiences."

In return for lottery money, nearly 800 arts bodies have agreed to introduce facilities for the disabled, ranging from wheelchair lifts and ramps on new touring minibuses to big alterations to existing buildings.

When the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art (Rada) has been refurbished with its recently approved £22m grant, it will be the first major art school in the country with total accessibility. The Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester has been given £84,000 to fund a

study into how it can follow Rada's example, while £64m will equip the Lowry Centre at Salford with a fully accessible theatre and art galleries. Other projects include the Harbour Lights Cinema in Southampton (£374,000), Oxford Playhouse (£2.5 m), the Grizedale Society Sculpture Park in Cumbria (£391,000) and a library in Stockport (£73,000).

"The progress we have made in a very short time has been amazing," said Patrick Masefield, the only disabled member of the council's National Lottery panel.

"We recognised that disabled people might want to work in the arts as a theatre director, a technician or a typist and that they should not be prevented from doing so."

Mr Masefield understands this concept: he was a theatre director, playwright and consultant for 21 years until he became a wheelchair user after getting myalgic encephalitis.



What do Peter Mackay, Mohamed Al Fayed and Mr Punch have in common? Peter Conrad on heritage as caricature

Making up the numbers ... David Foster Wallace on the secret lives of the also-rans of the professional tennis circuit

Plus: Michael Blakemore on the horrors of working with Woody Allen, a new short story by Margaret Atwood, and the joys of hidden Paris

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news

The young face of Channel 5 applies old soap

The new station aims to be both streetwise and friendly. But its viewers can expect little originality

MARIANNE MACDONALD
Media Correspondent

As Channel 5's first advertising campaign — with its streetwise "Give Me 5" logo — begins, its prospective viewers could be forgiven for wondering what exactly it will offer when it goes on air in the New Year.

With less than five months before its launch, Britain's newest terrestrial channel refuses to release up-to-date programming details, for fear of handing ammunition to its rivals.

Unlike Channel 4, Channel 5 has no mandate to serve minorities and no moral high-ground to occupy. It is there purely to make money for its shareholders — Pearson, MAI and CLT — the Treasury and advertisers, who have long complained about ITV's high rates.

This means that its viewers can expect a derivative and downmarket mix of drama and children's, leisure, educational and daytime programming when the channel goes on air on 1 January — if, of course, it manages to re-tune the nation's video recorders in time.

Its licence application made it clear that the emphasis would be on low-cost television, entertainingly presented. This is because it has a programme budget of £110m a year, compared to ITV's £600m.

One innovation it is considering is using presenters for programme links. "Our Channel 5 will not be faceless," its bid document said. "Other channels talk to viewers between programmes through a series of



Keeping them guessing: Dawn Airey, director of programming, is giving away little on what Channel 5 will show. It aims to be the 'modern mainstream' alternative to ITV

disembodied voices and rapid graphic displays. Instead we will show a human face throughout the day."

This approach will be echoed in other ways. Accessibility is

key, with efforts to involve the public rather than talk at them as the BBC has been perceived to do in the past.

Leisure programmes will form a major part of the new

channel's pitch. Gardening, wine, consumer and cookery shows are all to be offered by a channel which is seeking to position itself as the "modern mainstream" alternative, more

aligned to contemporary living than ITV.

Dawn Airey, Channel 5's youthful director of programming — formerly head of children's and daytime at ITV, and

entertainment and arts at Channel 4 — can promise only a 60:40 ratio in favour of original programmes.

But the public can look forward to glossy re-runs to fill the

gaps. Channel 5 has already secured rights to the slick American teen soaps *Beverly Hills 90210* and *Melrose Place*.

Other re-runs which might be offered are *Minder*, *Edward*

and Mrs Simpson, *Capital City*, *Tales of the Unexpected*, *Rumpole of the Bailey*, *The Sweeney* and *Hazell*.

Corinne Hollingworth, whose credits include *EastEnders* and *Casualty*, not to mention the disastrous *Eldorado*, is producing a five-nights-a-week soap to go out at 6.30pm in her role as drama controller. This will be aimed primarily at a young adult audience.

The tone will be relentlessly light. Cartoons are likely to be scheduled at breakfast time, leisure and lifestyle programmes before lunch and a daily magazine programme on weekday afternoons.

There will be some kind of

It has no mandate to serve minorities or take moral high ground. It is purely to make money

entertainment and talk show featuring a band, while early plans included a documentary, *Your Report*, to follow members of the public investigating a topic of their choice.

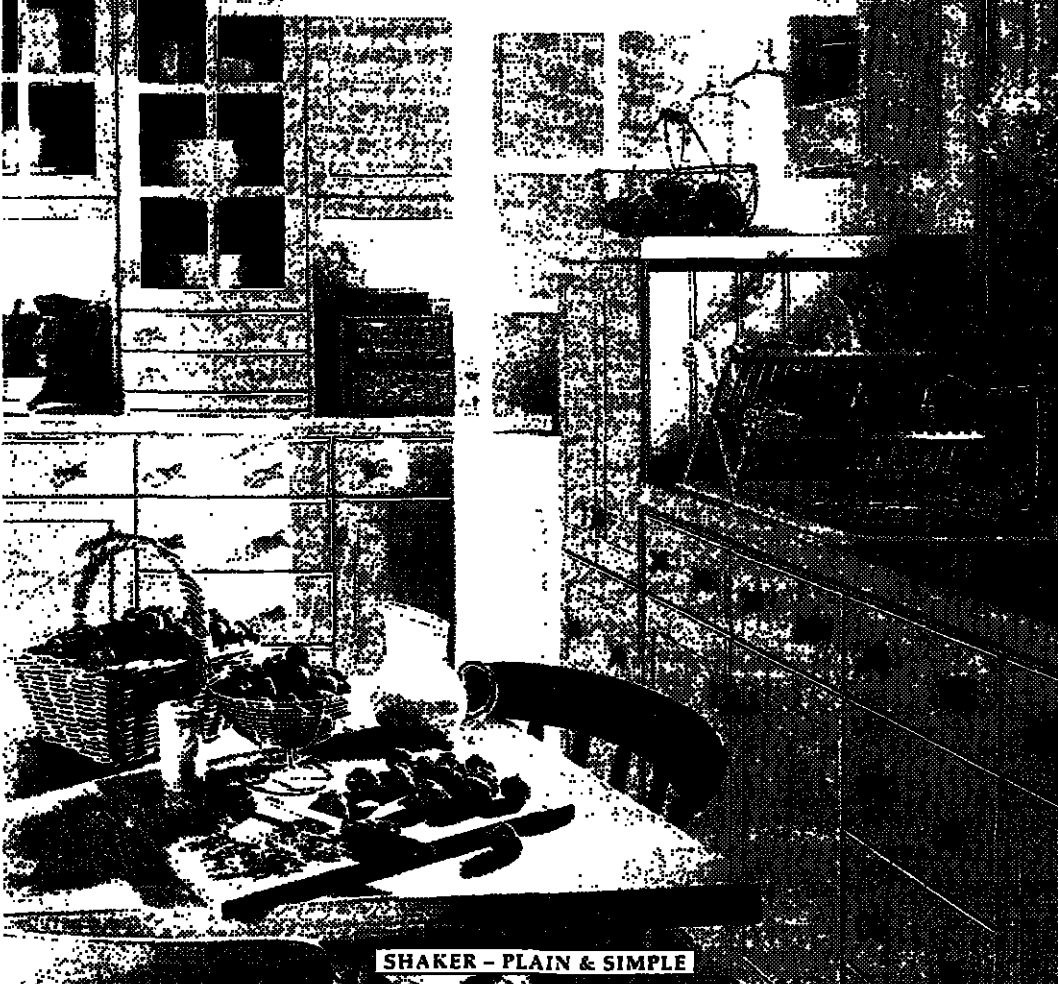
News, to be produced by ITN — which is currently recruiting reporters and producers — will have a European flavour and go out between 8pm and 9pm. This will allow the screening of a movie at 9pm five nights a week, to woo viewers from ITV's *News at Ten*, a weak point in that channel's scheduling.

Channel 5 will not have the money to compete in the bidding wars for major sports rights. Instead it will concentrate on "minority" sports and promises programmes on sailing, tennis, boxing, golf and snooker as well as late-night live sport from America.

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Food for thought

Yes, Safeway has its own bananas

HELEN NOWICKA

It might look like a piece of fruit, but to Britain's third largest supermarket chain the banana is a powerful weapon in the ongoing battle for high street supremacy.

Safeway has become the first British retailer to sell own-brand bananas and claims the move will mean a better deal for consumers. The own-label fruit, distinguished by a red Safeway sticker on each bunch, went on sale this week at one-third of the company's 371 shops, signalling the start of supermarket banana wars.

Despite their place in comic songs and slapstick gags, bananas are big business. The fruit is the largest selling line by volume in Britain's supermarkets with the total market worth around £600m a year.

Justin Farrington-Smith, a Safeway buying controller, said that introducing own-brand bananas allowed the store greater control over its produce and would give customers a guarantee of quality.

"Our bananas have to be between 15 and 21cm long and ripen to a very specific yellow," he said. "Having our own label on them means they have to come up to our specifications. They can't be sold off elsewhere if we don't want them, and that means the supplier has to meet our standards."

Safeway already sells other own-brand fresh produce, including apples and kiwi fruits. The latest deal took 16 months to finalise, largely because of the complex quota arrangements governing banana imports.

Former Caribbean colonies have a protected share of the European Union market under a deal designed to protect jobs on islands where half the population can work in the banana trade.

Supplies of Latin American bananas, grown on massive plantations and said to be larger and sweeter, as well as cheaper, are limited despite pressure from Germany and the United States to relax the restrictions.

Safeway's bananas are supplied from Ecuador by the farming giant Naboa and will be sold alongside branded bunches from Pyffe and Geest at the same price of 39p per pound. The variety of banana, the Cavendish, is already widely available.

Yesterday, Sainsbury, Tesco and Waitrose all said that they had no plans to follow Safeway's example. But at a time when supermarkets are fighting hard to increase their market share through saver cards and high-



profile advertising campaigns, city analysts say Safeway's decision will help bolster its profile.

One said: "Food retailing is one of the most competitive markets in the UK, there are good-quality companies chasing after a static market. This is a shrewd move for Safeway, they are in a win-win situation because it has an impact on the public and own labels cut out at least one middleman so they are more profitable."

However, a spokesman for the Food Commission questioned how much the change would benefit shoppers. "The British think a banana is a banana, we don't get to see the different varieties in the supermarkets so consumer choice is quite limited."

Backdoor tax rises attacked

ANTHONY BEVINS
Political Editor

The disabled and small businesses are being hit by backdoor tax increases in advance of November's "tax-cutting" Budget, the Liberal Democrats said yesterday.

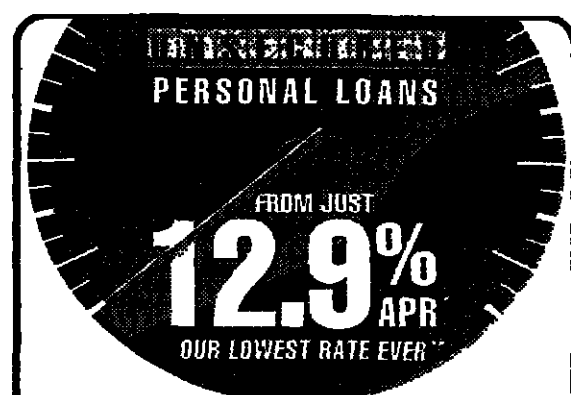
Malcolm Bruce, the party's Treasury spokesman in the Commons, said the Chancellor already had tax rises of £2.5bn in the pipeline — almost enough to finance the expected two-penny cut in the basic rate of income tax, to 22p in the pound.

One of the devices being used to fill the "black hole" in Kenneth Clarke's Budget arithmetic was value-added tax.

Mr Bruce said that VAT exemption had recently been removed from "a wide range of products designed solely for the use of the disabled, including air-purification products, vacuum cleaners and other allergy-relief goods, which will now be standard rated at 17.5 per cent". VAT zero-rating was also being removed from supplies of incontinence goods to National Health Service or non-charitable nursing home patients.

But the operation extended to a proposal, which quietly took effect last month, to restrict the level of claims for the repayment of wrongly-paid VAT from 23 years — to three years. A spokeswoman for Customs and Excise said yesterday that it was merely trying to "protect" the larger interests of the taxpayer — the Exchequer — from open-ended repayments.

Mr Bruce said there were also pending rises of 5 per cent in road fuel duty, 3 per cent in tobacco duty and in council taxes.



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صكرا من الامن

US jail brutality: 'Cockfights' and shootings investigated by FBI

Staged fights, betting guards, gunfire and death for the gladiators

TIM CORNWELL
Los Angeles

Violent inmates at California's top maximum-security jail were paired off in staged fights as watching prison guards bet on the outcomes, the *Los Angeles Times* reported yesterday.

In some cases prisoners who refused to stop fighting were shot to death. In a ritual that became known as "gladiator days", known enemies at Corcoran State Prison were released from their cells and paired off like fighting cocks in empty prison yards.

The fights became such events that officers of other units were called as spectators. The chief witnesses to the brutality at Corcoran, built in 1988 as a high-tech security jail and whose 5,500 inmates include the cult leader and murderer Charles Manson and Robert Kennedy's assassin Sirhan Sirhan, were a group of prison officers who went to the FBI, the newspaper said. Agents of the FBI have been gathering evidence for about a year and a grand jury is investigating the shootings to see if a prosecution can be brought.

The worst abuses were said to occur under the tenure of warden George Smith, who retired last July and was dubbed "Mushroom George" because "mushrooms like to be kept in the dark", one guard said. Mr Smith kept a picture of John Wayne in his office to project a tough image, and turned a blind eye to his subordinates' tactics. Over a period of eight years seven inmates were shot dead at Corcoran, five in the 18 months after Mr Smith took over. More than 50 have been wounded, more than in any other prison in the United States. Gunfire rang out almost every day, and shootings were covered up, officers now say.

The revelations from the prison, built in California's San

Joaquin Valley, come against a drumbeat of demands for tougher treatment of prisoners in US jails. Most recently Senator Bob Dole, in his speech accepting the Republican Party's nomination, promised to make life "hell" for violent criminals.

Guards and inmates described macabre scenes in which prison officers gathered in con-



Inmates: Charles Manson, left, and Sirhan Sirhan

vals together at close quarters in the hope that they would learn to live and let live. The policy was widely derided as a loser that forced inmates into fights and left officers with split-second decisions about life or death, and it has now been rescinded.



'There was money riding on me. I was even thanked by officers for making them a bit richer'

trol booths overlooking cramped exercise yards in advance of fights, which were sometimes delayed so that female guards and even prison secretaries could be present. The officers were armed with gas guns that fired wooden blocks and rifles.

The excuse for pairing off prisoners, often the members of rival black and Latino gangs who exercise powerful control over the inmates, was an official policy of "integration". It mandated bringing long-time ri-

for 1,800 problem inmates sent from other prisons. It was allegedly perverted into a system of staged brawls. Dumas de Leon, an SHU inmate from 1988 to 1990, claimed to have been involved in 11 staged fights in which his boxing skills made him a favourite.

"I was made aware by officers that there was money riding on me to win," he said in an affidavit. "I was even thanked by officers for making them a bit richer." But it was the killing of Preston Tate, a 25-year-old gang

member from South Central Los Angeles, that persuaded several officers to become whistle blowers. He died in April 1994 after officers opened fire in a section of the SHU known as the "shooting gallery".

A videotape which is now the basis of a law suit filed by his family, showed Tate, who was black, being charged by two Latino gang members and eventually being shot in the head as guards opened fire to break up the fight. An official report cleared the officers of wrongdoing. But Steve Rigg, a Corcoran lieutenant for six years and one of those co-operating with the FBI in a civil rights investigation into the incident, became convinced the fight was rigged. Tate had recently been moved into a cell adjacent to his assassins, and in another tell-tale sign a number of supervisors had gathered in the control booth. It was the second watch in the same building that is suspected of staging a series of "cockfights".

In eight months in 1994, 85 fights broke out in the period from 6am to 2pm, by contrast with just eight fights in the third watch, overseen by Mr Rigg. "They wanted to create fights," he said. "I think they liked shooting at some of the troublemakers. They wanted to get their little ounce of revenge."

In other incidents at Corcoran, a group of officers dubbed "the Sharks" organised reception parties for bus loads of arriving prisoners who were pummeled and kicked. After an internal investigation, three senior officers were fired and five other lieutenants and sergeants were demoted or suspended. While a grand jury is investigating other incidents, the failings of the integration policy may help to protect officers from any criminal investigation, prosecutors say.



Good fellows: Archbishop Desmond Tutu shares a joke with the Dalai Lama after their meeting in Cape Town yesterday, during the Buddhist leader's first visit to South Africa. Photograph: Reuters

Marines' tour of Haiti is 'timely'

PHIL DAVISON
Latin America Correspondent

A group of 50 US marines was due in Haiti last night after two days of violence raised fears of an all-out street war between pro-government democratic forces and the old guard of the ousted Duvalier dictatorship.

The marines had been scheduled to arrive for a training exercise but US Defense Department officials noted that they would be prepared to protect the US embassy in the capital, Port-au-Prince, and to defend non-combat army engineers building roads in the country. "We certainly don't go down there in any kind of provocative way," said Capt. Mike Doubleday, a Defense Department

spokesman. "On the other hand, I don't think there's any reason for the marines to be shy about the fact that they have a capability." He was referring to the fact that crack troops of the army's 82nd Airborne Division were in Haiti recently on a similar "training exercise" also in the wake of unrest.

Some US officials in Haiti said they feared further trouble this week if anti-government forces tried to embarrass President Bill Clinton in the run-up to next week's US Democratic Party Convention in Chicago.

US combat forces, after intervening to restore ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide in 1994, pulled out earlier this year and have been replaced by non-American UN

soldiers, from Canada, Pakistan and Bangladesh. Around 200 non-combat American troops stayed on to help with reconstruction and medical services.

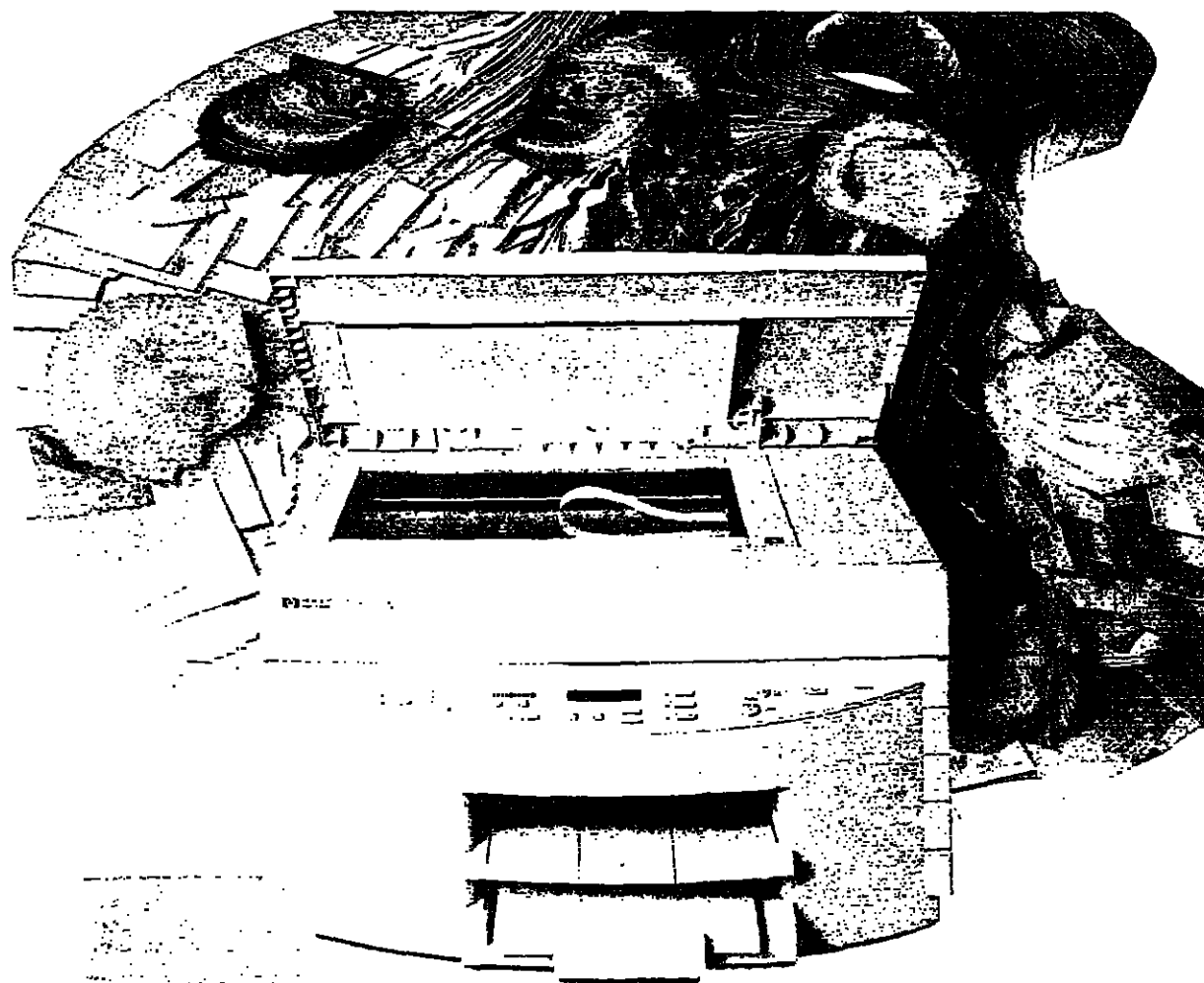
The latest violence appears to have been sparked by the arrests of 20 former military officers last Saturday in the offices of the right-wing, pro-military, anti-government Mobilisation for National Development (MDN) party. According to police sources, they had been plotting an attack on Port-au-Prince's presidential palace, where Mr Aristide's successor, René Preval, lives and works.

The army, traditionally linked with the long Duvalier dictatorship, was disbanded by Mr Aristide last year and replaced by a new internationally-trained

ed police force, leaving many former officers disgruntled. Many fear the old military leadership will resurface when UN troops leave in November.

In the small hours of Monday, apparently reacting to Saturday's arrests, two dozen men in military fatigues fired automatic weapons and grenades at the central police station where the ex-officers were being detained. A bystander was killed and two policemen were wounded before UN forces arrived in armoured cars and helicopters.

After the shooting, a warrant was issued for the arrest of MDN leader and long-time Duvalierist Hubert de Ronceray, who disappeared while the 20 ex-officers were being arrested at his headquarters.



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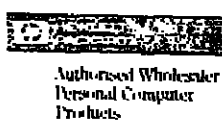
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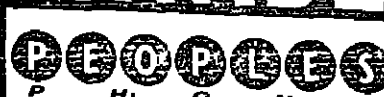
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Conflict breaks out again: Turkey and Syria watch with interest as two main parties resume struggle for control of the region

Iran 'supplying arms to fuel Kurdish civil war'

PATRICK COCKBURN

The civil war between the two main Kurdish parties in Iraq Kurdistan has resumed, with Iran allegedly lending heavy artillery support to one faction. The fighting started at the weekend, with each side fielding about 30,000 men.

The outcome of the conflict will be watched with intense interest by neighbouring governments in Turkey, Iran, Syria and Iraq, which, together with the US, have fought for influence in the Kurdish mountains since the Gulf war in 1991.

Hoshyar Zebari, a leader of the Kurdistan Democratic Party, said yesterday: "Iranian forces have started intensive artillery bombardment of our positions and are using helicopters to ferry troops behind us."

Both sides agree that clashes are more intense than at any

time since 1994, when the KDP and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan effectively divided Kurdistan between them. Mr Zebari said his party had been forced to abandon one position under intense Iranian artillery attack after losing 25 dead and 75 wounded.

There are no independent accounts of the fighting. Some Kurds who belong to neither party confirm the intensity of the bombardment, but thought it possible that Iran had provided the PUK with heavy guns. The KDP says it has intercepted radio conversations between the PUK and Iranian artillery.

The heaviest fighting is for control of the vital Hamilton Road, built during the British occupation of Iraq, which runs through Kurdistan towards the Iranian border. Giving a different account of the start of the fighting, Dr Latif Rashid, a

spokesman for the PUK, denied that his party was receiving Iranian support and said the latest fighting started when "some 500 to 600 men in a KDP unit defected to us last week".

The PUK, which controls south and east Kurdistan, is attacking key positions of the KDP who hold north and west Kurdistan. Mr Zebari says: "It is the heartland of our support." He said he was confident that his party, led by Massud Barzani, could hold its ground, but not if the PUK was "backed by howitzers and Katyusha rocket-launchers provided by Iran".

Since the Kurdish civil war started two years ago, Iran has increased its influence in the region and is probably backing the PUK in its offensive. This is the continuation of Iranian policy of alternately backing both parties in Kurdistan and seeking to limit the influence of the US and

its Gulf war allies. The US still provides air cover for the three-million Kurds in north-east Iraq to prevent the return of Saddam Hussein, the Iraqi leader.

Despite the continuation of "Operation Provide Comfort", US interest in Kurdistan has been intermittent. This week's fighting has pre-empted a fresh US mediation effort, but past attempts to get the KDP and the PUK to agree have failed. Both Turkey and Iran consider they have the right to send in troops in pursuit of their own Kurdish rebels. In July, Iran sent troops far into Kurdistan with the apparent agreement of the PUK. KDP leaders now say they are being punished by Iran for refusing to co-operate in the raid.

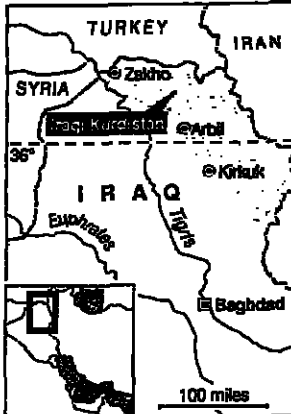
Kamran Karadaghi, a commentator on Kurdish affairs, says: "The Iranians are sending a message to the US and Turkey

which is that it is the main player in northern Iraq." Turkey has so far reacted mutedly to the fighting, fuelling speculation that improved relations between Ankara and Tehran following the visit of Necmettin Erbakan, the Turkish prime minister, to Iran may have made Turkey more tolerant towards Iranian intervention.

For its part, the PUK, led by Jalal al-Talabani, accuses Mr Barzani of looking for support from Baghdad, alleging his troops have received armoured cars from Iraq. There is probably some truth in this, since all the Kurdish parties maintain links with neighbouring countries which pay intense interest in their affairs. But any real improvement in the relations between the KDP and Baghdad is likely to be vetoed, for wholly different reasons by Iran and the US.



Tolerant: Necmettin Erbakan



Erbakan looks east to build tiger economy

HUGH POPE
Istanbul

Not even pro-Western Turks know quite what to make of the new eastward-looking foreign policy of their first pro-Islamic Prime Minister, Necmettin Erbakan.

Some call it a tragicomic charade. Others say it is as if the big-mouthed man in the coffee-house who says: "If I were prime minister, brother, I'd stick it to them like this" had suddenly come to power.

But some academics and editors argue that Mr Erbakan, the once fiery Islamist, is now acting as a statesman and is playing Turkey's few cards to good advantage. Even hostile commentators are lending grudging support to a Turkish policy that has more "personality".

"Turkey behaved as if it had forgotten the word 'no' to America in the last few years. This charity has always brought us losses," wrote Cengiz Mengi in the popular daily, *Sabah*, while maintaining a healthy suspicion about the maverick Mr Erbakan's integrity.

Turkey's diplomatic mandarins are probably correct to maintain that whatever the novelties of Mr Erbakan's style, the basic foreign policy of this increasingly pluralistic nation of 65 million people has not changed and cannot change under the weak Islamist-conservative coalition government.

But Turkey's foreign ministry was disconcertingly left out of Mr Erbakan's loop as he set a new series of priorities that Turkey's European and American partners in Nato are struggling to come to terms with.

Since coming to power in July, he has sent ministers to Iraq, party officials to Syria and is just back from a 10-day tour with a large party of ministers, businessmen and journalists to Iran, Pakistan, Singapore, Malaysia and Indonesia.

Most controversially, Mr Erbakan signed a 23-year, \$23bn deal with neighbouring Iran to buy up to 10 billion cubic metres of gas a year from Iran and Turkmenistan by 2002. On his return to Ankara, he strongly defended the deal. "What could be more natural than us getting cheap, abundant natural gas from right next door," he asked.

There followed a sudden increase in Turkish pressure to rehabilitate its rich pre-Gulf war trading relationship with Iraq, another Western pariah. Protocols signed in Baghdad foresaw greater cross-border trade, pressure on the United Nations to allow Jordanian-style com-

mercial privileges for Turkey and another gas pipeline to bring 10 billion cubic metres of gas to Turkey each year.

Nor has Libya been forgotten. One of Mr Erbakan's ministers says that because of a "disagreement on prices", a project to sell fresh water to Israel from a Turkish Mediterranean river has been diverted towards the parched north African state.

Turkey's flirtation with red-rag names like Iran, Iraq and Libya is almost calculated to stir up bull-like feelings in the US.

The Iranian deal, coming only a week after President Bill Clinton signed a law endorsing sanctions against investors in Iran and Libya whose deals are worth more than \$40m. So far, American officials only say they are "studying" the Turkey-Iran deal, but they have voiced opposition to any commerce with what Washington calls rogue regimes.

Since Tehran apparently dropped its long-standing demand that Turkey finance the Iranian section of any new gas pipeline, Ankara has argued that buying gas from Iran is simply trade, not investment.

Nowadays Mr Erbakan also speaks warmly of America and he has defended the key components of Turkey's pro-Western economic and military alliances. He has also backed away from promises to cancel a keynote military training agreement with Israel, and seems likely to go ahead with an agreement to refurbish Israel's F-4 Phantom warplanes.

Following Mr Erbakan's lead, Tansu Ciller, his coalition partner and Foreign Minister, has defended what she calls a "multi-dimensional foreign policy" to make Turkey a "bridge between West and East".

Reporters travelling with Mr Erbakan's party say his true Islamic model state is based on the South-East Asian Tigers of Malaysia and Indonesia. Not unnaturally, he wants Turkey to have a stake in the burgeoning Pacific rim economy.

■ **Tehran (Reuters)** — Iran says it has signed a \$1.2bn deal to build a joint oil refinery in Pakistan, working around US attempts to choke its oil industry. Tehran radio said the deal was signed in Islamabad by Iran's Oil Minister, Gholamreza Azhadeh, and Pakistan's Production Minister, Mohammad Asghar. The report said the two countries would invest jointly in the construction of the 120,000-barrel-per-day refinery in Pakistan's south-western Baluchistan province.

UN sends Bosnia 'free and fair' election warning

CHRISTOPHER BELLAMY
Sarajevo

The UN warned yesterday of "dire consequences" for forthcoming elections in Bosnia if election guidelines agreed by Bosnia's interior ministers are not followed. The Sarajevo spokesman, Alex Ivanko, detailed two cases of serious intimidation and harassment which, if not put right, could mean the 14 September elections would not be considered "free and fair".

Many commentators in Sarajevo believe the elections ought to be postponed, and that the US government is bulldozing ahead with them for its own political purposes.

If they were postponed, the peace implementation force, I-For, could not start withdrawing, as planned, on 20 December. This would prejudice President Bill Clinton's chances in the American elections in November.

Mr Ivanko said he was "very concerned" by the systematic intimidation of voters and candidates in the mainly Muslim Bihac area, in the north-west, where hand grenades had been thrown at the houses of local opposition party members. He had received allegations that local police were involved in intimidating the opposition. The ruling party in the area is the

hard-line Muslim SDA. The region earlier was the scene of fierce fighting between the Bosnian Muslim government and breakaway Muslims led by a renegade businessman, Fikret Abdic. People perceived to be Abdic supporters have been intimidated, as have supporters of other opposition parties.

The other area where Mr Ivanko warned "free and fair" elections appear impossible is Teslic, 30 miles east of Banja Luka in the Serb-controlled entity of Bosnia, known as Republika Srpska. Here, the ruling party is the SDS, the extreme nationalists Serbian party, to which the indicted war crimes suspect Radovan Karadzic belongs.

Mr Ivanko said a factory owner had been forced out of his job and other supporters of the opposition Socialist party had been harassed, as had members of the Democratic Patriotic Bloc, the more moderate Serbian party. There had also been reports of unauthorised "special police" forces appearing in the Serbian areas, which did not appear to report to any recognised authority.

Mr Ivanko said the UN was investigating. However, the US seems determined to push ahead with the elections.

If no gross interference can be proved, the election results will stand.



Bear necessities: Andrew Lim, a Singapore TV actor and teddy bear aficionado, poses with soft toys in Sasha's, the first of nine specialist stores that have opened to meet demand from adult collectors

Photograph: Reuters

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Waiting for a toy train by a misty mountain tea garden

The gloom had settled on Ghoom. At 7,407ft up in the Himalayas, rising above bamboo jungles and an emerald mosaic of tea gardens, Ghoom is the highest narrow-gauge railway station in the world. It was also the gloomiest.

Two hours later, the next train on the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway was lost somewhere down the mountains in impenetrable mist. I peered inside the stationmaster's window. His office was empty, save for an ancient telephone and a set of keys dangling above a rusty model of the tiny station. Pieces of slate on the railway timetable had flaked off, making it indecipherable. The only discernible figure of authority on the platform was a noisy red rooster.

I didn't think the train would ever come. Boys were playing football between the tracks, the only flat ground in Ghoom, where a bad kick could send a ball sailing off a cliff into a 3,000ft free fall. And when I saw a barber open up shop on the track I almost gave up hope. He sat his customer on one of the rails and began the intricate job of scraping away his ear wax with a long, lethal-looking scraper. It looked as if the de-waxing would take hours.

Many of the other Darjeeling-bound passengers - army men on short leave, Bihari labourers and a Tibetan trader carrying turquoise and gold-coloured stones for artisan monks in the Buddhist monasteries further up the mountain - had lost patience and had clambered onto jeep taxis.



RIDING THE IRON ROAD

I had been warned. Ever since the British completed the 55-mile stretch of track between New Jalapuri Station to Darjeeling in 1881, the engineers have engaged in an epic seasonal battle with monsoon rains. It dislodges giant boulders which hurtle onto the track. Sometimes the hillsides liquefy, spewing torrents of mud and felling trees. Or the railway bedding is washed away, leaving nothing but two twisted rails, dangling in nothingness. Landslides in June closed the track below Kurseong, a town at 4,787ft, which is a junction for estates with names like Margaret's Hope and Eden Glade, and is where they grow the finest Orange Pekoe tea.

The battle to keep open the full length of the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway (DHR) may be lost. It is not the monsoon which is killing off the Darjeeling toy train, as it is called,



Ghost train: A 100-year-old locomotive waits in the mist at Ghoom on its way to Darjeeling, via the world's highest narrow-gauge railway

Photographs: Colin McPherson

Tim McGirk takes a journey back in time on the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway

but the motor car. By train, the journey from the plains to Darjeeling can drag on for 13 hours. Speeding along by road takes only two-and-a-half hours.

The railway authorities plan to shut all but the final leg, running from Ghoom down to Darjeeling. This would reduce the hard-slogging mountain train to a pathetic tourist curio.

It would be a pity if it goes, for the Darjeeling rail is a marvel of engineering. It is also the most spectacular of the 28,000 miles of railway that criss-cross India. The DHR's three, century-old steam locomotives loop, zig-zag and chug their way past waterfalls, Buddhist monasteries and vistas of Kauchung, one of the highest Himalayan peaks.

The American writer and humourist, Mark Twain, was one of the first to visit Darjeeling by rail. Twain claimed he was told that at Sukna station, an ur-

gent telegram was once wired to Calcutta saying: "Tiger eating stationmaster on front porch; telegraph instructions." The reply, unfortunately, was not recorded.

The railway united India better than any conquering army could have done. After the

British laid the first railway in India, at Bombay in 1853, building track became a frenzied obsession. They stretched steel up and down the coastlines, across the heartland of the Ganges plains, and all the way up the Khyber Pass. Now, over 10.5 million passengers ride Indian

Rail every day, to more than 7,084 destinations.

The Darjeeling line was more than a scenic amusement. Britain's colonial capital at first was Calcutta, and the Crown's administrators needed to escape the malaria and cholera which engulfed the city in monsoon. The fever line was reckoned to be 2,800ft; any higher, and malarial mosquitoes lose their sting. The hilltop of Darjeeling was their second choice. First, the British scouted Cherrapunji, in the Khasi hills, but this site was abandoned after they realised it had the heaviest rainfall in the world.

In construction, several tons of gunpowder were used every day to blast a spiralling line up the Himalayan foothills. The gauge is a narrow 24in, designed to assist the train up the curving slope. All this I learned from a pamphlet, *Travelling to Dar-*

jeeling in 1944, and a few guidebooks I had time to read while waiting at Ghoom station.

The gloom was gloomier than ever. I decided to warm myself with Darjeeling tea (the garden tasters drink it straight, no sugar or milk, but the Ghoom tea stall specialised in sweet, milky tea the colour of monsoon mud.) Having finished my guidebooks, I had nothing better to do than watch the barber perform his magisterial de-waxing. He had moved on to the other ear.

Then the gloom lifted. The mist draping Ghoom was pulled aside, and the town was revealed, perched on a high ledge overlooking long, green spurs of hills - anywhere but the Himalayas they would be called large mountains - which fell off abruptly into the watery, blue haze of the plains.

And then I heard it. The train was coming. On a faraway bend

of the mountain, I could see the whitish steam rising from the locomotive into the mist. It was as if that little locomotive, puffing and straining, were a cloud-manufacturing machine big enough to blanket the Himalayas.

Twenty minutes later it pulled into Ghoom station. By then, the barber was collecting his few rupees from a satisfied, ear-scoured customer. Children danced around the engine, a B-class 0-4-OST manufactured by the North British Locomotive Company of Glasgow in 1893, as it hissed and fumed.

The fare from Ghoom to Darjeeling, a distance of five miles, was only three rupees; I wasn't alone. Schoolchildren piled on the train, and as we left Ghoom at the famous Batasia loop, they all dashed out, picked wildflowers and raced across to hop on the train as it finished the loop.

Sometimes travelling slowly has its advantages.



Tea line: 'Toy train' passengers travel down to the plains

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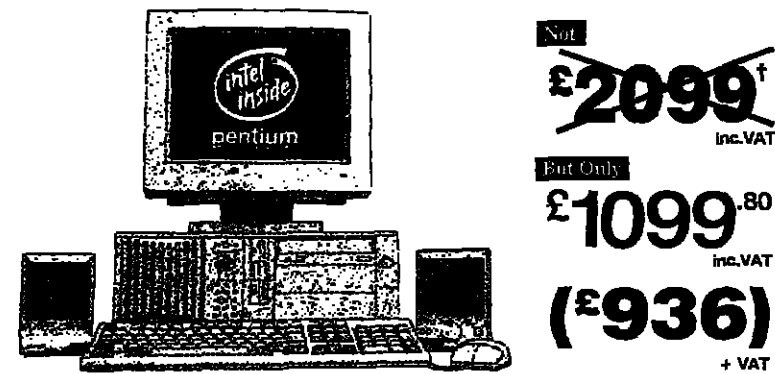
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obituaries / gazette

Tsutakiyokomatsu Asaji

My first encounter with a geisha took place nearly 40 years ago. The late Fifties in Japan was a time of unprecedented change brought about by the national restructuring of the economy that was to lead to the "economic miracle". Cultural life was gradually becoming stereotyped and its skills had diminished. The art and craft of the way of a geisha were already on the wane.

Today, the numbers of these elegant and accomplished entertainers are decreasing as girls refuse to submit themselves to the arduous training required. Tsutakiyokomatsu Asaji was one of the rare last representatives of a bygone glory, and a centenarian witness to a lost paradise.

I had just arrived in Japan, but I had done my homework and knew that the geisha is not a prostitute, still a common misconception. The money to pay for the geisha party had been extorted from the university's administration which had a special fund for such entertainments. The expense of hiring a geisha was always beyond my means, and it was only at publishers' celebrations that I was that I was able to enjoy their company. In fact, it is mainly successful businessmen and high-ranking

politicians who can afford to keep a geisha, and even so she is often shared with two or three other privileged beings.

Apart from the pure pleasure of their dancing and singing, I must admit that I found geisha rather tedious companions with their little parlour games in which one had to participate, otherwise they were a little cross. As a foreigner, I usually ended up by providing my own kind of entertainment for the geisha. But their skill, charm and acute insight into human character were undeniable, though some of them were decidedly long in the tooth.

I never had the good fortune to be served by Asaji. She was a person of quite exceptional talents as a dancer and a singer, to her own shamisen accompaniment, of *kyōka-bushi* ballads. The beauty of her face hands with their almost translucent skin was especially admired, as was the nape of her neck, slim, graceful and curiously expressive: it is said to be the part of a woman's body most admired by Japanese men. Asaji's dancing showed off these exquisite assets to intoxicating effect, particularly after a few flasks of hot sake had been served by her own slender hands.

Yanagibashi Asaji as she was known to her clients - a name derived from the "willow bridge" district of geisha houses in downtown Tokyo - was a true *Edokko* geisha (that is, born and bred in Edo, the former name of Tokyo), and the last of her line. She began the acquisition of all the essential geisha skills - dance, music, flower arrangement, kimono management, story-telling, the serving of sake, the playing of games, the art of conversation - at a very early age, and completed a formal education more gruelling than any exam-orientated modern school.

She first appeared in public at the age of 16, and from that day on, without stopping, she performed for many important men including the wartime prime minister Hideki Tojo and the founder of the Honda empire, Soichiro Honda. During her long career, she sometimes entertained three generations of influential men from the same family - grandfather, father and son. This, too, was in the time-honoured tradition of geisha service.

Some also had distinguished foreign associations, beginning with Oluchi, who was unwillingly pressed into the service of Townsend Harris on his arrival

from America with the "black ships". The nephew of the famous J.F. Morgan, George Dennison Morgan, married a geisha, O-yuki, from the celebrated Gion district in Kyoto. The first modern stage actress was a geisha, Sadayakko, wife of the theatre director Otojirō Kawakami, who played in both traditional and western dramas and toured Europe and the United States from 1899 to 1902, creating a sensation wherever she appeared.

After 87 years "active service" Asaji retired but still kept up her artistic and social life, declaring that she wanted to improve her shamisen technique. At the age of 100 she appeared in a fashion show for ladies of advanced age and published her autobiography, *Onna wa kari-kari shan* ("A Woman should be Pretty and Proper") in 1994.

Her advice to would-be maiko (apprentice geisha) and geisha was to be neat and pleasant and above all to keep their mouths shut: they often heard business and state secrets from their clients. One geisha who had blabbed because her "sponsor", the former prime minister Sōsuke Uno, paid her only 200,000 yen a month (about £1,250) was forever after shunned by her sisters in the

profession, and her indiscretions caused a resounding scandal which brought down Uno, who was forced to resign in 1989.

Asaji disapproved of such immoral behaviour, partly because after Uno's downfall politicians became scared of being betrayed by their geisha mistresses, and so brought the profession in disrepute at a time when it was on its last legs.

At the end of her life, Asaji, too, complained of being on her last legs, but still continued to entertain occasionally at high-class restaurants for powerful politicians and fashion designers. She was an avid mah-jong player, and would complain that all her old partners had died out, leaving her no one to scalp. And she enjoyed drinking sake to the end of her days.

Tsutakiyokomatsu Asaji was in every sense one of the old school, the sort of classic, refined, mysterious geisha one finds in the novels of Nagai Kafu, Yasunari Kawabata and Aya Koda, or in the great films of Kenji Mizoguchi.

James Kirkup

Haru Kato (Tsutakiyokomatsu Asaji), geisha: born Tokyo 28 February 1894; died Tokyo 19 August 1996.



A woman should be pretty and proper: Asaji in 1994, aged 100, plays the shamisen. Photograph: AP

Camilla Horn



Horn as a Russian princess in *Tempest* (1928). Photograph: Ronald Grant

A beautiful blonde with slanting brown eyes and classical features described as "fathomless in their subtle shadings of emotions", Camilla Horn was one of the great beauties of the German cinema, who made an overwhelming impact with her first leading role, in F.W. Murnau's *Faust* (1926), the great director's last German film before he went to America. He had originally wanted Lillian Gish for the role of Marguerite to Emil Jannings' Faust, but Horn proved inspired casting.

"For once," wrote *Photoplay* on the film's American premiere, "a picture is stolen from the redoubtable Jannings. This Berlin newcomer is a remarkable actress... she gives what is, in our opinion, a better performance than Miss Gish could have offered. It is a superbly tender and unaffected bit of work." Though she subsequently starred opposite John Barry-

more in Hollywood, the advent of talkies prompted a return to Germany, where she worked prolifically throughout the Thirties until her frank criticism of the Nazi party temporarily ended her career.

The daughter of a railway worker, Horn was born on 25 April 1903 in Frankfurt, and educated in Germany and Switzerland. After briefly working as a seamstress she went to Berlin to train as an actress and dancer. She danced in cabaret as part of Rudolf Nelson's revue troupe before obtaining work as an extra at UFA studios, her films including Murnau's *Tarnhülle* (1925). (She preferred later to disregard these early bit parts and proclaim *Faust* as her film debut.)

A commercial failure, *Faust* is regarded as a classic of the German cinema. Horn's acceptance of UFA's offer of a contract prevented her imme-

diately joining Murnau in Hollywood, where she later claimed she would have starred in his masterpiece *Sunrise*, but in 1928 she was allowed to go to America, where the producer Joseph Schenck, with whom she became romantically involved, put her into the leading role opposite John Barrymore in *Tempest*. Set during the 1914 Bolshevik uprising, its first encounter between the two leads had Horn, as Princess Tamara, whipping the officer played by Barrymore across his bare chest, to which he responds (naturally) with a kiss. *Tempest* was the first film produced by United Artists to have synchronised sound and music effects.

Horn again starred with Barrymore in *Eternal Love* (1929). Ernst Lubitsch's last silent film and a gloomy affair in which the couple, as mountain villagers forced into separate loveless marriages, flee the wrath of the

village who wrongly suspect Barrymore of killing Horn's husband, only to meet their deaths in an avalanche. It was a critical and commercial failure.

Horn's final American film, a talkie shot in both English and German versions, was *The Royal Box*, based on Alexandre Dumas' biographical play *Keen*, co-starred Alexander Moissi as the renowned English actor Edmund Keen. Back in Germany, Horn starred in Leo Mittler's *Sonnentag des Lebens*, the German version of Edmund Goulding's *The Devil's Holiday* (1930), playing Nancy Carroll's role of a mercenary maniacist converted by true love.

Her subsequent German films included a big hit *Die Grosse Sehnsucht* ("The Big Yearning"), then in 1932 she came to England to make three films in which she displayed a good command of the lan-

guage. The films - *The Return of Raffles* (1931), *Matinee Idol* (1932) and *Love Nest* (1932) - were minor items however, and when she returned in 1934 to make the even poorer *Luck of a Sailor*, she was fourth-billed.

She was now playing more worldly roles than in her earlier films, and her career continued to flourish in Germany where Georg Jacoby's *Der Letzte Walzer* ("The Last Waltz", 1934) and Jacques Feyder's *Fahrendes Volk* (1938) were notable successes, until her trouble with the Nazis, which led to her semi-retirement in 1939.

An attempt to cross the border into Switzerland having been unsuccessful, she took up farming and at one point went into hiding. At the war's end, she became an interpreter for the occupying Americans before resuming an acting career with a triumphant stage appearance in Cocteau's *L'Angèle à Deux*

Têtes (1948). Later she carved a new career as forceful matriarchs on television and film, winning the 1988 Bavarian film prize for her role as a royal grandmother in Peter Schönbauer's *Schloss Königswald*. In 1974 she received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the German film industry, and in 1985 wrote an autobiography, *Verliebt in Die Liebe* ("In Love with Life"), in which she candidly discussed her marriages and affairs (including a long-standing one with her co-star Louis Grunberg). Several years prior to her death, she had moved to a rest home in Bavaria.

Tom Wallace

Camilla Martha Horn, actress: born Frankfurt, Germany, 25 April 1903; married Gustav Diehl, Louis Grunberg, Klaus Geer, Kurt Krieger, Robert Schupfer, Rudolf Mühlhens; died 14 August 1996.

Ian MacGregor

Successful headmasters and headmistresses have tended to be less successful in making the transition in middle or late working life into senior administrative responsibility in an education authority. On the less frequent occasions when an administrator, with relatively little classroom experience, is spatchcocked into a headship of a major secondary school, disappointment, sometimes catastrophe, has ensued.

Ian MacGregor negated this rule, and for 18 years, from 1970 to 1988, was the conspicuously successful Rector - Scots headmaster - of the 1,000-pupil comprehensive school of Bathgate Academy. Unquantifiable though influence and actual achievement may be, long-serving effective school heads are of unsung value to a community in particular and society in general.

One element in MacGregor's success was the large range of genuine friends he accumulated in Britain and beyond, and outside the confines

of school; I think particularly of his great friend the late Professor John P. Mackintosh MP. MacGregor dreaded getting bogged down as so many good teachers have done in ever narrower educational circles. "My task," he would say, "is above all to extend the horizons of my pupils and the school staff."

MacGregor's father was the UK distributor for 20th Century Fox films and his mother was the first of his four wives. She came from a distinguished firm of whisky brokers and barrel-making coopers. After the First World War in which MacGregor's uncle, serving in the Royal Flying Corps, was one of those killed by the German air ace Baron Von Richtofen, they moved to South Gosforth. And shortly after MacGregor was born in 1924 the family moved to Altrincham in Cheshire where he attended the grammar school until his parents divorced and he moved with his mother to Fife and the Belle Baxter School in Cupar.

At that time, there were few boys with English accents in Fife schools and he had a very rough time. Years later when he was headmaster in Bathgate, which had the biggest machine shop under one roof in Europe (British Leyland Truck and Tractor Division), he made sure that boys from Birmingham and other areas of the Midlands did not get the kind of bullying on account of accent which he himself had suffered.

Owing to health problems which were to afflict him throughout his life, he studied at St Andrews and Edinburgh Universities during the Second World War years. In 1946-47 he became president of the Scottish Students Union and as such travelled to Prague before the Communist take-over of Czechoslovakia. One of his life-long interests was helping people from eastern Europe who came penniless to the West. It was one of the causes of the Scottish Union of Students at the time. Because MacGregor

was a counter-suggestive person he stood up to the taunts of his fellow delegates from the National Union of Students that because he didn't accept the left-wing line he must therefore be a neo-fascist. MacGregor replied in kind that SUS was a completely separate body from the National Union of Students.

Winning a place in the Civil Service exam, he spent three years as Assistant Principal in the Ministry of Finance in the government of Northern Ireland. And hated it. "Life in Belfast," he complained, "is all retirement."

So he returned to academia, and after a year at the University of New York studied for the Diploma of Education at Edinburgh University and took Honours in Teacher Training at Moray House College of Education, then under the inspirational leadership of Dr W.B. Inglis.

After a short period as a teacher at Buckhaven High

School he joined Edinburgh Corporation Education Department as Assistant working under Dr George Reith, one of the great post-war educational experimenters.

It was at this period that MacGregor learnt that one of the objects of good schooling was to persuade young people to take their own decisions as a preparation to adult life. "Empowerment to do things and take initiatives is what it should be all about," he would say. He also had the ability to speak to his students without patronising them.

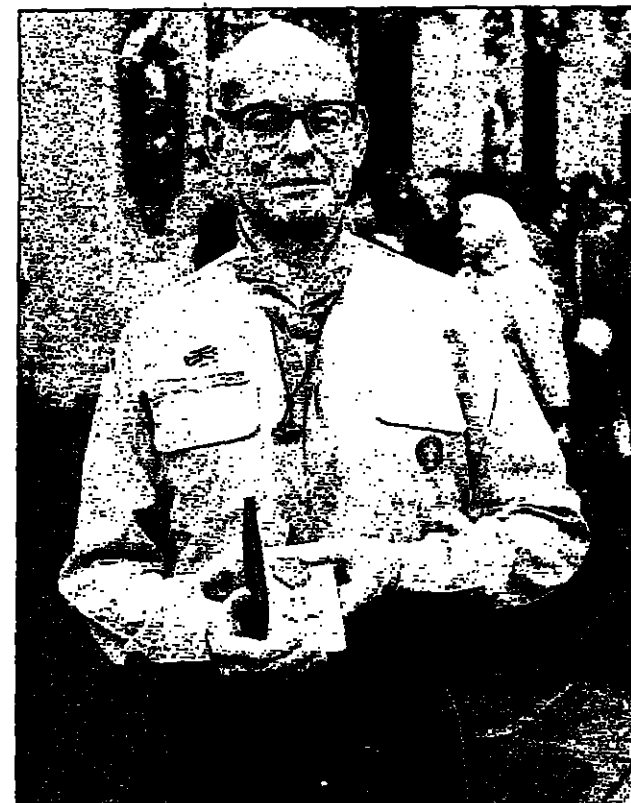
In parallel with his educational activities was his formidable contribution to the scout movement in Scotland where he was successively commissioner for the universities, commissioner for venture scouts, and commissioner for relationships.

The scouts in 1980 bestowed their highest honour upon him, "The Silver Wolf", and in 1988, for service to scouting as well as his service to education (as As-

sistant Director in Aberdeenshire 1959-62, to West Lothian 1962-70, as senior deputy director and as a headmaster for 18 years), he was given the OBE. At the end of his life he was active on the board of UCCA (the Universities Central Council on Admissions) and worked long and effectively as general council assessor in Edinburgh University Court.

Tom Dalyell

Ian George Stewart MacGregor, educational administrator and headmaster: born South Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne 29 December 1924; Assistant Principal, Ministry of Finance, Government of Northern Ireland 1947-50; Assistant Director of Education, West Lothian 1964-70; Rector, Bathgate Academy 1970-88; General Council Assessor, Edinburgh University Court 1980-95; OBE 1988; died Bath 15 August 1996.



MacGregor: "My task is to extend the horizons of my pupils and staff"

Hernán Siles Zuazo

Duncan Green's otherwise very fair and accurate obituary of Hernán Siles Zuazo (19 August) is a little too sparse in its praise, writes Professor James Dwyer. Siles was a man who uniquely contrived to be president of Bolivia three times without ever ordering the execution or exile of his enemies, despite the fact that he was himself shot at, jailed, exiled and kidnapped from his teens until his seventies. At Siles' funeral last week Vice-President Victor Hugo Cárdenas - once a fierce opponent - reflected the senti-

ments of many when he contrasted Siles' lack of conventional "policy success" with his singular example of political negotiation, compromise and genuine co-operation in a violent era.

After being thrice elected to the presidency in the late 1970s, Siles was finally permitted to take office in October 1982, only to confront an appalling economic situation, the cocaine barons in top gear, and Ronald Reagan at his most aggressive. Nobody other than General Pinochet had hitherto attempted a real neo-liberal sta-

bilisation plan except, of course, Siles himself in 1956-57. Small wonder then that he now opted to try and "manage inflation", and allow the long-suffering citizens of Bolivia some democratic rights after 18 years of dictatorship, placing economic management second to political freedom. Today, of course, this is neither popular nor fashionable, but in 1982-84 it was both plausible and sane. Siles was a shy man and a devout Christian. His hunger strikes were an effort to break the cycles of violence that had

gripped Bolivia since independence, and he had a fair measure of success. Bolivia today palpably remains in the thrall of the cocaine mafia, and it is far quieter and more peaceful than either Peru or Colombia. Siles' death, the repatriation of his remains from Uruguay, and his burial have triggered a remarkable expression of sentiment in the country. He is the first of the leaders of the 1952 Revolution to die, but it would seem that he is recognised as the most *simpático* and generous. I vividly recall the day in 1982

when Hernán Siles finally took office and admonished the exultant crowd who had driven the army from power with their strikes and were now booing the military band in attendance at the inauguration. "Be kind to them," he said. It is a good injunction, albeit one spurned by the big men of *realpolitik* and *faux* thought to be a recipe for impunity and inertia. Hernán Siles was always suspicious of the left's need for heroes and he loathed the right's love of authority. He went against the grain, and he did so bravely.

Some 40 years ago, when I was feeling my way into translation, Mack Rosenthal was poetry editor of the leftist New York weekly the *Nation*, writes Norman Thomas di Giovanni [further to the obituary by Walter Baumann, 13 August].

In awe, I regularly sent him versions of the Italian poems that were my training ground. At once he treated me with unfailing kindness and promptness, as if I were a valued contributor. This made me even more awestruck. I now realise that this unique man would have

Mack Rosenthal

treated all of his contributors that same way.

Rosenthal gave each submitted poem his total attention. He did not merely accept or reject. He wrote to you and was always helpful and encouraging. I was so green that the first time I sent him a poem - it was by Cesare Pavese - I neglected to include my address with it. When later I queried what I imagined had been his neglect, he promptly wrote back saying how much he wanted the poem and had been keeping it for publication, hoping I would contact

him again. Later I sent him another Pavese. It came back promptly, telling me the decision was all wrong. It also listed instances. I sat down, rewrote the piece, and resubmitted it. By return mail Mack accepted it.

I did not know then that M.L. Rosenthal was an inspired and respected university teacher. I would never have believed he was an academic. I only knew him as an inspired editor, one who took extraordinary pains and could be helpful and generous to a complete novice. He was a man in love with poetry.

BIRTHS

HARVEY: On 17 August, to Jane Myerson and Tim, a daughter, Matilda, a sister for India and Caspar.

HYLTON / PENNANT: On 10 August 1996, to Maïse and Trevor, a daughter, Olivia.

DEATHS

BRADY: Edward Lawrence, died peacefully in Bath, on 20 August, aged 81. Funeral, Fyfe Lane Crematorium, NW11, Friday 23 August, 1.45pm.

OLDFIELD: (née Balfour), Lady Kathleen Constance Blanche (Kath), wife of the late Professor Richard Charles Oldfield, died peacefully at home on

Births, Marriages & Deaths

21 August aged 84 years. Funeral service to be held at Morton Hall Crematorium, Howden Hall Road, Liberton, Edinburgh on Saturday 24 August, 11.30am. No flowers please, but donations for tree planting gladly accepted.

IN MEMORIAM

PLANTAGENET: Richard, Remembrance before God, Richard III, King of England, and those who fell at Bosworth Field, having kept faith, 22 August 1485. *Loveable me Lie*, Richard III Society, 4 Oakley Street, Chelsea, London SW3 3NN.

Birthdays

Miss Mary Allen, Secretary-General, the Arts Council, 45; Mr Peter Alison, publisher, 72; Mr John Bonham, chairman, 56; Miss Honor Blackman, actress, 70; Mr Marc Bohan, dress designer, 70; Mr Ray Bradbury, author, 76; Professor Sir Colin Buchanan, urban planner, 88; Dr Rob Buckman, broadcaster, 48; M Henri Cartier-Bresson, photographer, 88; Maj-Gen Earl Calvert, 77; Sir Richard Catling, former Commissioner of Police, Kenya, 84; Professor Sir Cyril Askey Clarke, geneticist, 89; Mr Steve Davis, snooker player, 39; Miss Margaret Douglas, Supervisor of Parliamentary Broadcasting, 62; Miss Anne Downey, circuit judge, 60; Mr Derek Fitchett MR 51; Mr Wilfred Harrison, actor, director and playwright, 71; Mr Max Hebditch, Director of the Museum

of London, 59; Mr Gerald Long, journalist and former chief executive, Reuters, 73; Mr Donald MacLeary, dancer, 59; The Right Rev Robert Martineau, former Bishop of Blackburn, 83; Sir James Menzies, former Principal, Queen Mary College, 75; Mr Alan Michael ME 53; Sir Leo Piatzky, former senior civil servant, 77; General Norman Schwarzkopf, US military commander, 62; Mr Karlheinz Stockhausen, composer and conductor, 68; Sir Anthony Tuke, former chairman, Savoy Hotel, 76; Mr Mats Wilander, tennis player, 32.

Anniversaries

Birther Denis Papin, physicist and inventor, 1647; Jean-François de Galoup de La Perouse, sailor and explorer, 1741; Pope Leo XII, 1760; Thomas Tredgold, engineer and car-

pent, 1788; François Furter, engraver, 1790; Dr John Hill Burton, historian and jurist, 1809; William Hayman Cummings, oratorio tenor, 1831; Sir Alexander Campbell Mackenzie, composer, 1847; Gustaf Fröding, poet, 1860; Claude-Achille Debussy, composer, 1862; Jacques Lipchitz, painter and sculptor, 1891; Dorothy Parker (Rothschild), husband and writer, 1893; Lezi (Helene Bertha Amalie) Riefenstahl, actress, film producer and photographer, 1902; Deaths: Pope Gregory IX, 1241; Philip VI, King of France, 1350; Richard III, King, killed at Bosworth Field, 1485; Jan Kochanowski, poet, 1544; Luca Marenzio, organist and composer, 1599; William Whiston, translator of Josephus, 1752; Jean-Honoré Fragonard, painter, 1806; Warren Hastings, first Governor-General of India, 1818; Franz Joseph Gall, neuro-

physiologist and founder of phrenology, 1828; Alexandre-Gabriel Decamps, painter, 1860; George Shillibeer, pioneer of London's first bus service, 1865; Sydney Thompson Dobell, poet, 1874; Henry George Bohn, bookseller and publisher, 1884; "Lord" John Sanger, circus entrepreneur, 1889; Robert Arthur Talbot Gascoyne Cestri, third Marquess of Salisbury, statesman, 1903; Michael Collins, Irish nationalist leader, killed in ambush, 1922; Sir Oliver Joseph Lodge, physicist, 1940; Michael (Mikhail) Mikhailovich Fokine, dancer and choreographer, 1942; Roger Martin du Gard, novelist and playwright, 1958; William Richard Morris, first Viscount Nuffield, motor manufacturer, 1963; Jomo Kenyatta (Kamau), Kenyan leader, 1978; James Thomas Farrell, novelist, 1979. On this day: the Scots were defeated by the English at the

Battle of the Standard (Northallerton), 1138; Richard III was defeated by Henry VII's men at the Battle of Bosworth Field, 1485; the Civil War began in England, 1642; Sierra Leone was first settled by British as a haven for former slaves, 1788; New Mexico was annexed by the United States, 1846; the Geneva Conference adopted the ideas put forward by Jean-Henri Dumant, and the International Red Cross organisation was founded, 1864; Korea was annexed by Japan, 1910; the first regular BBC television service began, 1932; Pope Paul VI made the first papal visit to South America when he arrived in Colombia, 1968; an engine on a British Airways Boeing 737 aircraft exploded and burst into flames on take-off, and 55 passengers were killed, 1985; following a change in the licensing laws, public houses in England and Wales were allowed to stay

open all day, 1988. Today is the Feast Day of St. Andrew of Fiesole. St John Kemble, St Sigfrid of Wearmouth, St Symphorian and St Timothy.

Lectures

National Gallery: Mari Griffith, "Assumptions (IV): Valdis Leal, The Immaculate Conception of the Virgin, with Two Donors", 1pm. British Museum: Katie Hill, "Western Influences on Chinese Painting (1919-37)", 1.15pm.

Changing of the Guard

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am; Nincompo Company Grenadier Guards mounts the Queen's Guard, at Buckingham Palace, 11.30am, band provided by the Grenadier Guards.

25 أغسطس الامل

Motor pollution is an issue for local will

The Government's announcement yesterday of targets for cutting motor vehicle pollution over the next few years bore all the hallmarks of Gummerism. This is the political condition associated with the current Environment Secretary, John Gummer's patron saint is evidently St Augustine of Dagenham - give me exhaust pipe continence but, please, not yet. Mr Gummer's concern for the well-being of the physical environment is in no doubt. He cares about the countryside, about old buildings ... and all that. But heart is not enough.

Government is a many-sided struggle between departments and politicians, who are mostly utter growth-addicts. Gummerism has turned out to mean knuckling under to the Department of Trade and Industry's fear that hard-nosed environmental policy is "bad for growth" - an argument that fails to see how innovations in transport and emission control could give this country a leading edge in the development of products and programmes. It is unable to face up to the job of reorganising central government to cope with such inter-departmental questions as how cities are shaped, how housing choice connects with land-use and transport and the physical qualities of life. Is the "housing boom" being so eagerly talked up by his colleagues really compatible with the environmental progress he wants to see?

It is not entirely John Gummer's fault that the Department of the Environment now ranks low in the pecking order. Its lack of weight with the Treasury and Number 10 helps to explain the long delay in getting these targets for various pollutants off the Tarmac. But it is Mr Gummer's fault that his policy pronouncements do not recognise that there is no way you can separate out "environment" from fiscal, industrial, regulatory and a host of other policies delivered by other departments. Mr Gummer exhibits an intellectual failing common among politicians, though odd among politicians of the neo-Thatcherite right. He exhibits a touching faith in dealing with pollution from cars by means of policy - something government does. Air-quality improvements, however, rest on a myriad of changes in how we live our collective lives, how we distribute ourselves in physical space, how we choose to move about in town and country.

Mr Gummer will say, rightly, that identifying and controlling vehicles producing excess levels of pollutants is a specific first step; in setting targets (albeit for 2005) the UK has pushed itself to the forefront of European Union states. (Still, it's noteworthy how even erstwhile Eurosceptic ministers are wont to wring their hands and say "If only the European Commission would bail us out by setting common standards".) But he has pulled his



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punches on the question of cost. The cost of cars will have to rise but the degree of pain that causes is bound up with our preferences not just about modes of transport, but about where and how we live. Gummerism drives nowhere unless it takes us all into a much wider debate about "urbanism". That is an abstract word for a concrete and daily set of choices, by ordinary people, not by ministers. We report today how a junior minister wants to urge private house-builders once again to start constructing terraced dwellings in the cities. They are likely to demur when it comes to

assembling the packages of land fit for inner-urban development, partly because they say the demand is for suburban or country semis and detached properties, with all the consequences for car use and the environment such development entails. This is not to argue that market preferences are everything - the use of land is conditioned by town and country planning policies. It is to say that people choose in the intimacy of their households how and where they live and so choose the environmental consequences.

Signs of change in attitudes to city life abound. We reported on Tuesday

how middle-class families were self-consciously seeking to recolonise inner-urban areas (middle-class, because many lower-income people have never had the chance of leaving their inner-city local authority accommodation). City dwellers, new and old, have the keys to a better environment in their hands. To put it bluntly: people must be sufficiently upset by asthma deaths or bad air quality for them to start, locally at first, to agitate for restrictions not on their neighbours' car use but on their own vehicles; and to vote to reconstruct the government of our cities to allow them to tax and spend and rebuild transport systems. This is where Mr Gummer and his central government colleagues come in.

The Government's sincerity can be tested by this question. It is one posed yesterday by its own former transport minister, Steve Norris - who seems to have seen great flashes of light since leaving it. Can you have pollution control or environmental improvement in a city such as London without that city acquiring the capacity to govern itself? The answer is, of course, no. The centre can impose blanket controls: the control of pollutants from domestic coal fires is one of the great post-war success stories. But dealing with the problems created by car use is a local and regional matter because it has to do so closely with where we shop and go to school and our willingness to tol-

erate restrictions on parking and car use. Solutions will only stick if they are based on local will. But that in turn depends on a revival in the capacity of local government to reflect local choices - something Mr Gummer and his Tory colleagues have been squashing and squeezing for 17 years.

Swap you a train for some sausage

The prochain départ pour Sidcup will be on a French train. Yesterday the Government announced that the South Eastern rail franchise had been sold to Connex, a subsidiary of the French transport giant CGEA. What price petty nationalism in suburban Kent now, when foreigners own the rolling stock? French water, French power, French railways ... such an influx of Gallic experience and capital is welcome, though the fact it is happening under Tory rule makes the Little Englandism of that party's Eurosceptics all the more incoherent and futile. Of course the traffic isn't all one way. The company that provides on-board restaurant services on British railways has just said it is thinking of taking the catering franchise on certain Continental routes. It will be offering the British Rail breakfast, *boudin noir* and all.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Westminster impotent to curb Europe

Sir: The "stifling of British democracy" (report, 20 August) was inevitable from the day in 1972 when Parliament reduced its own status to that of a subordinate legislature by enacting the European Communities Act. Sadly our politicians have been trying to conceal that fact ever since. While it is clearly wrong that ministers and officials should abuse our internal constitutional processes by bypassing the Select Committee on European Legislation, one must question what useful purpose is served by that committee's deliberations now that so much federal legislation is determined by qualified majority voting. If Parliament were to lay down a policy to be followed on a particular issue, all they would achieve would be to tie the hands of ministers and officials in the "horse trading" which inevitably goes on in the Council of Ministers and the Commission, without any guarantee that this policy would not be outvoted by the other members. The process of scrutiny of federal legislation by national parliaments is at best futile, and at worst self-defeating.

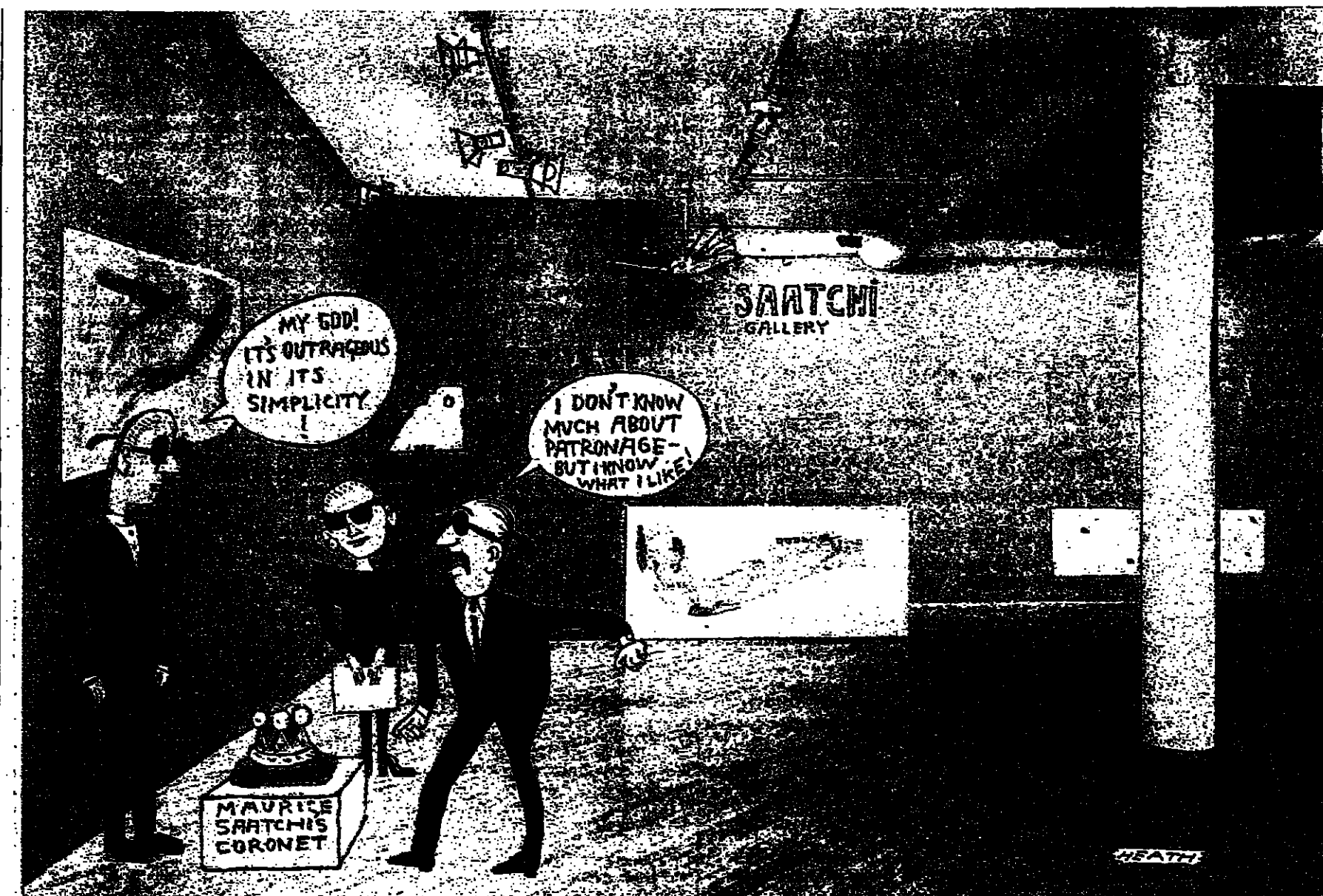
If we want Europe to be more democratic, and there is a great democratic deficit at its heart, we should seek to make the Council and the Commission more accountable to the European Parliament, not to insist on the right of our own legislators to run interference on our own executive in federal negotiations. An exception obviously applies in respect of those issues where individual member states have a right of veto.

Assuming that we remain a full member of the Union, Parliament would serve us best by concentrating on performing the restricted functions of a "state legislature" as well as possible.

J A DAVIS
Bookham, Surrey

Sir: The House of Commons Select Committee on European Legislation suffers from bad self-delusion. It is not its job to scrutinise draft EU legislation. That belongs to the European Parliament, which under the Treaty is the legislative partner of the Council and the Commission and has established formal procedures for work. At the current IGC the European Parliament's law-making role needs to be reinforced, particularly with regard to secondary legislation: the UK government is alone in opposing this.

What should the European Committee be doing? It should be co-operating better with the European Parliament's committees in monitoring the implementation of EU law and policy in this country; it should be assisting MEPs, especially in EU budgetary control; it should be questioning the broad lines of government policy and insisting on the publication of White Papers on pressing strategic issues, such as EMU; it should be assessing the causes and effects of government setbacks in the Council; it should go fact-finding in Brussels and act as a fact-finding and Westminster; it should be collaborating far more closely with member states, especially to open up tricky decisions, such as fisheries policy. Best as the European Select Committee might about its



treatment at the hands of the Government, the fact is that most MPs are deeply ill-informed about the European Union and more or less uninterested in the European dimension to domestic politics. When from time to time the House of Commons comes to exercise its reserve constitutional powers on major developments in the European Union such as enlargement, Treaty change or EMU, it is really a surprise that it makes such a poor showing?

ANDREW DUFF
Director
The Federal Trust
London SW

Brunel roasts station buffet

Sir: Nicholas Faith ("The great InterCity breakfast", 20 August) gives an account of Charles Dickens writing about the lamentable catering at "Mugby Junction". Perhaps the earliest complaint about the railway refreshment rooms was made by Isambard Kingdom Brunel, who although he was the engineer of the Great Western Railway was not prepared to take responsibility for all its operations. Writing to the first refreshment contractor at Swindon he said: "I assure you that Mr Payer was wrong in supposing that I thought you purchased inferior coffee. I thought I told him that I was surprised you should buy such poor roasted corn. I did not believe you had such a thing as coffee in the place; I am certain I never tasted any. I have long ceased to make complaints at Swindon. I avoid taking anything there if I can help it." However, the most famous refreshment room must be the one.

at Millford Junction, which had a doctor in attendance in case lady travellers required cinders to be removed from their eyes before taking tea and rock cakes.

JOHN MITCHELL
London SE13

Let down by Ucas system

Sir: You are quite right to recommend a system of university entrance in which students apply after receiving their A-level results ("Lessons of the scramble for university places", 19 August).

I am one of many 18-year-olds who received their A-level results last week and I am embittered by the Ucas system, which I feel has let me down badly. I was predicted mainly C grades and on the basis of which I demanded A and B grades, that I had originally hoped to do. However, after receiving my results (two A grades and a B), I find that it is too late to secure a place on that course at any university in Britain for 1996. I will now have to reapply for 1997.

I firmly believe that a system in which students apply after receiving their results would be fairer to everyone. Any system which relies so heavily upon teachers' predictions on what students are going to achieve, one year before the exams, is bound to be grossly unfair and woefully inaccurate.

ASMA AHMED
London N22

A way forward for Cyprus

Sir: Your readers might be interested to hear the views of a "neutral" Cypriot (letters, 19 August).

As a member of a small community of Armenian Cypriots, I grew up in a Cyprus which was largely peaceful and all Cypriots worked together and most went to school together. However even in those days Cyprus was made up of segregated communities. Towns and villages had separate Greek and Turkish quarters. After working side by side or attending the same schools, Greeks went home to their quarter and Turks to theirs. There was very little integration outside school or their workplace.

There has never been a Cypriot identity. Even in the "good old days" Greek Cypriots pledged allegiance to the Greek flag and sang the Greek national anthem, the Turkish Cypriots pledged allegiance to the Turkish flag and sang the Turkish anthem.

The 1960 Zurich agreement on independence was in effect imposed on the Cypriot people. It states that Greeks and Turks share power on a ratio of 70 per cent and 30 per cent. The population then was made up of 82 per cent Greeks and 18 per cent Turks. Armenians, Maronites and Latin Christians were included in the 82 per cent. The Greek Cypriots always claimed that the 1960 Zurich agreement was unfair to them and in 1963 tried to renegotiate better

terms. Of course the Turkish Cypriots objected and so inter-communal strife began.

Cyprus has in effect been partitioned since 1963. In my opinion the best that can be achieved now is a loose confederation made up of Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot zones, with freedom of movement between the two, guaranteed by the original Zurich signatories, Britain, Greece and Turkey.

NAZARET SHAMLIAN
London N10

Lever's true model village

Sir: What tripe Jonathan Glancy writes (Architecture, 20 August) about Port Sunlight and Billy Lever's role in its building.

The village itself, far from being "dwarves' cottages in black and white vernacular" is a handsome and telling contribution to the architecture of the period and is still an adornment to the Wirral peninsula. Lever himself lived there in a huge house in the centre of the village and many of his managers were proud to occupy the beautifully designed larger houses. The village itself contained one of the best art galleries in the North of England, a hospital, a school, a coaching inn and three employees' clubs. The landscaping and playing fields would put many a modern town to shame.

As to the villagers doffing caps as the "nabobs paraded round the houses", Mr Glancy does not

know the Birkenhead working man. Nor does he know much about Port Sunlight village. I do; I lived there.

DON WEBB
London SW6

No fear

Sir: As a retired teacher of mathematics, I take exception to Mr Weale's contention that "30 years ago, teaching was largely done through fear" (letters, 17 August).

I taught in secondary schools in the Fifties. My concern, and that of my colleagues, was to communicate our enthusiasm for our subjects to our pupils and encourage them to realise their full potential. The children I taught were keen to challenge one another - and me - in class discussions. They enjoyed exchanging ideas and we worked together in a happy and friendly spirit.

There will always be good, bad and indifferent teachers in any era.

MARY HAYMAN
Richmond, Surrey

Demonic eyes

Sir: The actor who posed for Tony Blair's demonic eyes in the Tory poster ("Another one in the eye for Tony" campaign, 20 August) should consider playing Bardolph in Shakespeare's *Henry IV* of whom it is said: "He calls me c'en now, my lord, through a red lattice, and I could discern no part of his face from the window. At last I spied his eyes, and methought he had made two holes in the ale-wife's new petticoat, and so peeped through."

IAN FLINTOFF
London SW6

Police struggle with the Internet

Sir: UK Internet Service Providers (ISPs) were invited to a discussion on 2 August with the Home Office and the Metropolitan Police regarding pornography on the Internet ("Police get tough on Internet porn", 16 August). We sent a representative. Instead of a discussion, the meeting was a lecture from Scotland Yard: there is pornography on the Internet; ISPs are legally responsible for this; and the police have the power to arrest and seize equipment.

We know that criminal activities of various sorts take place across the Internet. Criminals also use trains, buses, aeroplanes, the postal service, cellular phones, and all other means of communication. No one is threatening to arrest Richard Branson because dope smugglers sometimes use Virgin Atlantic.

There are some five policemen responsible for dealing with the problem. They are not technically trained and they do this on a part-time basis. In the seminar the police made it clear that they can't deal with the problem but are under considerable pressure to do so. They know that the ISPs can't handle it either but it relieves the pressure on them to toss it our way.

The Internet is a means of distributing information at very low cost all over the world. We handle some 200,000 news articles a day. These are written by millions of Internet users all over the world and are delivered at virtually zero cost. We charge roughly 1p per thousand articles. Attempting to vet each individual news article would increase the cost by something like 10,000 times. If we had to vet each article, we would have to stop supplying the news. Attempting to apply UK laws designed for publishers to the Internet criminalises ISPs and will cripple the Internet. We need realistic laws suitable to the Internet. We also need realistic funding for police law-enforcement efforts.

We would be happy to provide technical input to the police in support of their efforts to enforce the law. What we object to is their understandable attempt to shift the responsibility for this huge problem on to the ISPs, who do not have the resources to cope with it.

J D DIXON
Managing Director
VBCnet GB Ltd
E-mail: jdd@vbc.net

Sir: The Internet Service Providers are getting together to agree a form of filter, whereby pages stored on the World Wide Web are coded: 1 for the highest content of sex and violence, to 5 with no sex, violence or offensive language. Users will then be able to configure their Web browsers to download only pages of a certain number. While putting control back into the hands of the user, where it should be, this will not cater for people still running browsers without this option. There is, however, as with television, an on/off button.

SIMON FORBES
E-mail: forbes@bul.co.uk

River rage

Sir: Ms Jakeman (letter, 19 August) is quite wrong. Punt Rage is as old as the hills. Like so many other things, it has simply degenerated into crudity.

Overheard from a punt in 1946: She: Well, if you don't believe in the Categorical Imperative at all, I don't think there is any point in our going around together!

PATRICK RODGER
Edinburgh

analysis

How we can clear the air

Nicholas Schoon tells the Government five better ways to civilise the car

We could clean up Britain's air, quickly and dramatically, and continue to have high levels of car use and car ownership. But we will not succeed in doing so if we stick to the Government's UK Air Quality Strategy, launched yesterday.

This is a very cautious, bland document, published eight months after the originally intended date and consisting almost entirely of a restatement of existing policies and laws. It bears all the scars of prolonged battles between government departments, and ministers' overall calculation that voters would punish any party that punished the motorist.

You don't get something for nothing, and improving the quality of our air requires changing attitudes and habits. That can be done, and to some extent it already is, in Britain and elsewhere. But it takes courage and leadership, a readiness to confront the lobbyists, the pro-car press, and a careful playing on the guilt which comes with the average motorist's hypocrisy about the car.

There are measures available which would reduce traffic, make vehicles fundamentally less polluting and our cities and countryside much more pleasant to be in. To begin with, however, a smog of confusions and misunderstandings has to be cleared.

Air pollution is already in rapid decline and will continue to fall for several years. This is due to reams of European Union and domestic legislation and policies, but two factors stand out.

One is the collapse of Britain's coal-mining industry associated with the privatisation of electricity. More and more power stations burn gas, a much cleaner fuel than coal. Second, European Union directives have set tougher and tougher standards for vehicle exhaust fumes and will continue to do so over the next 10 years.

Why, if things are getting better, is there much more press coverage of smogs these days? The answer is that the Government has a much better air-quality monitoring network and is more open with the information.

So if air pollution is falling why should we do more? The best reason is that we know, increasingly, that air pollution is dangerous, destructive and extremely expensive. The Government accepts that air pollution shortens thousands of lives each year and puts up to 20,000 people in hospital. Also, it damages buildings, crops, wildlife and habitats.

Furthermore, if we set out to reduce pollution by reducing road traffic we reap benefits which are just as important as improved air quality. We cut noise. We make our towns and cities more civilised and tolerable, and our countryside more like real countryside. We no longer need so many expensive new roads.

And while air pollution may

Affluent people use their cars more. We must break this habit

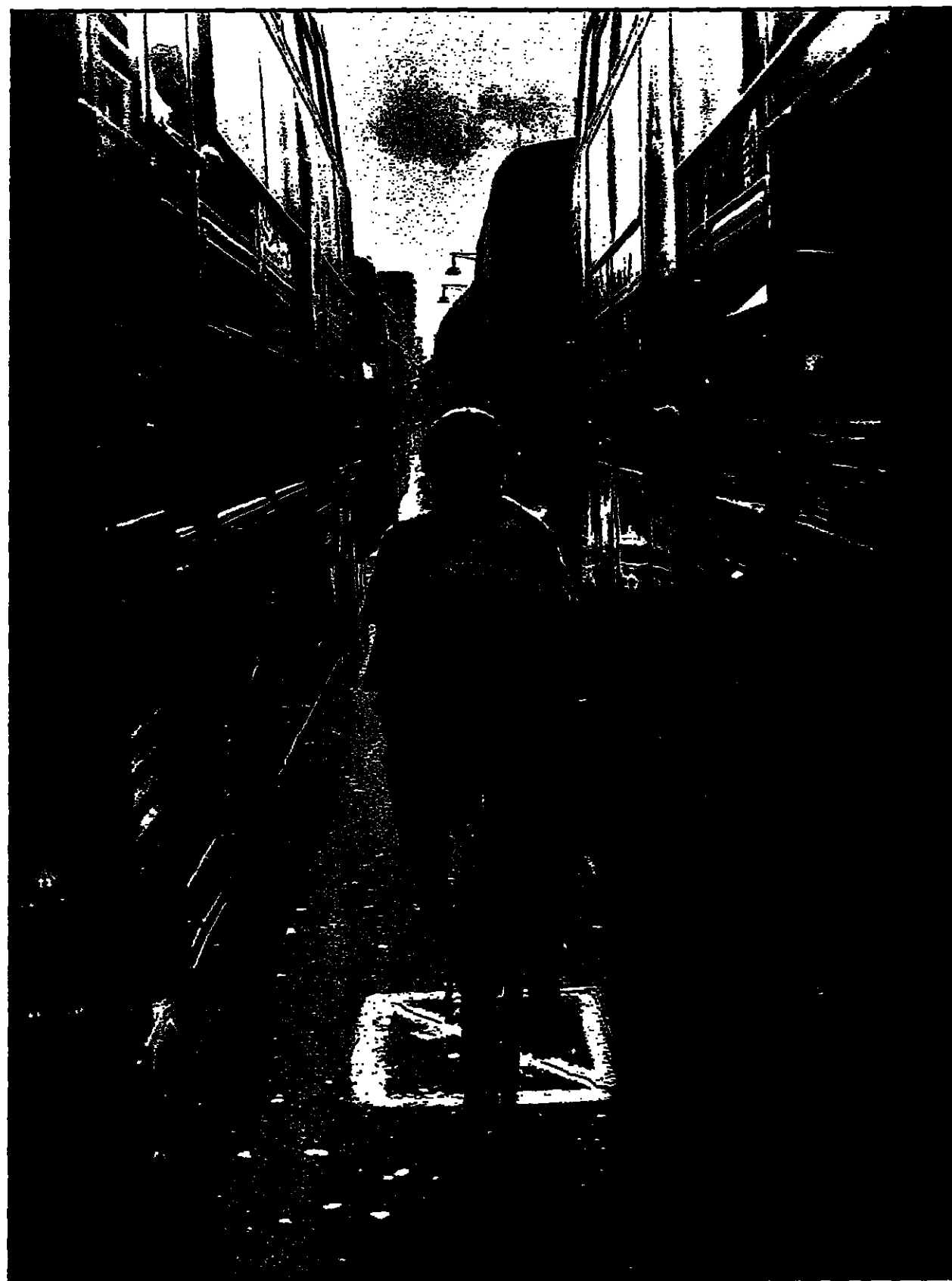
be falling now, it is expected to start rising again in 10 years as economic growth overwhelms the gains. Experience shows that as people become more affluent they use their cars more and own more of them. The hard task of breaking that link and social habit needs to start now.

John Gummer, Secretary of State for the Environment, understands that better than most. He had all the right rhetoric for yesterday's launch of the new strategy, envisaging a future in which more families would hire cars, own just one car, or manage without one altogether. But he had no new policies to offer.

So what could be done without incurring large increases in public spending?

First, as advocated by the Civic Trust, a tax should be introduced for non-residential car-parking spaces in places where central and local government want to discourage car use and encourage a switch to bicycles, car pooling and public transport. City-centre office blocks and out-of-town supermarkets would be prime candidates.

The money raised could be



A tax on non-residential car-parking spaces could pay for improving public transport

Andrew Buiman

used to make public transport more desirable, reliable and intensive. The sums would be substantial: £1,000 a year per space works out at less than £3 a day for individuals, but if the tax covered a million spaces £1bn per annum would flow in.

Second, one of John Gummer's greatest green achievements is to persuade the Cabinet to put up fuel duties by 5 per cent, each year, above the rate of inflation into the indefinite future.

This is brilliant. It sends a clear signal to motorists and car manufacturers that motoring is going to become more and more expensive – and that therefore they should opt for more efficient, less polluting cars and/or drive less.

But it is also deeply flawed, for there is no guarantee that any of the extra money raised will be used to make alternatives – such as telecommuting, car sharing and public transport – more attractive.

And there are other, equally valid calls on this money. Some could be used to subsidise the clean-up of bus exhausts. Competition and cost-cutting have turned them into some of the dirtiest vehicles on our streets. Some could be used to pay a few hundred pounds to jolly drivers to scrap their filthy old hangers and buy a new car with a catalytic converter. That is one move, pioneered in France,

which would delight Britain's car makers.

Third, set higher rates of vehicle excise duty for cars that produce more pollution. There is no absolutely fair and precise way to do this, but the easiest would be to use bands of fuel consumption figures as the basis. Gas guzzlers should be charged at least three times as much as the most economical, cleanest vehicles which make up 25 per cent of the car fleet.

The rate should be set at zero to encourage ultra-green vehicles such as electric cars and Greenpeace's cleaned-up version of the Renault Twingo. This would encourage manufacturers to make production runs and not just one-off prototypes.

Fourth, intensify the mild, sporadic clampdown on old, dirty cars with badly tuned engines and no catalytic converters. This filthy minority produces the majority of the pollution. What is needed are frequent roadside checks, in which suspect cars are pulled over by local council environ-

ment health officers, emissions checked and fixed penalty fine notices issued along with a demand for an engine re-tune.

But the Government insists that only traffic wardens and policemen should be allowed to stop cars. They are already kept busy by their existing duties, and are loath to assume extra responsibilities for stopping dirty cars. The Government needs to promise the police the extra resources to allow them to do this.

Fifth and finally, we should continue to make it less and less attractive for firms and employees to run company cars as a jobs perk.

These are the kind of measures needed if we are to civilise the car and start to break our over-reliance on it. Sticks have to be accompanied by carrots. Most drivers will then change both their outlook and habits, not just because of the money but because the new taxes and incentives signify what is socially acceptable.

John Gummer's new strategy is a good starting point, says Derek Osborn

The Government's air quality strategy signals a new phase in the perennial battle to keep our air pure and healthy. The great causes of the past – pollution from factories and from domestic chimneys – are becoming a smaller, tractable and a declining part of the problem. It is now pollution from vehicles which is centre stage because they produce roughly half of our air pollution, and for some types of pollutant they are by far the greatest contributors.

The air quality strategy breaks new ground in proposing standards for the maximum level of each main pollutant that ought to be tolerated, and a strategy for meeting those standards by 2005. It gives a clear account of what we know about the health and other damage these pollutants can cause, and the costs this imposes on the economy – which is of course also a measure of the economic benefit we shall obtain by eliminating or reducing the pollution.

What then must be done? The strategy proposes a mix of action, focused at one end on international and European action, and at the other on local action. It is obvious why we need a European policy for air quality. Air blows about over the whole continent, and the pollution blows with it. But the need for a common European policy on a subject is no guarantee that the states of Europe will agree one – witness the repeated failure of states including the UK to agree and uphold a rational and sustainable common fisheries policy.

For air, however, we have been able to make common cause with our partners – in eastern as well as western Europe – to achieve major improvements. Recent reports from the European Environment Agency show reductions of 27 per cent in sulphur dioxide, 17 per cent in carbon monoxide, and 10 per cent in nitrogen oxide across Europe in the past five years.

Good progress, but much more needs still to be done to meet the target standards. And for road traffic the projections show that the sheer numbers of extra vehicles coming on to the streets will overwhelm the benefits of catalytic converters in a few years' time, and air quality will start to deteriorate again unless tighter standards are introduced or patterns of movement altered.

The European Commission's recent proposals to improve fuel standards and tighten up vehicle emissions after major joint studies with the oil and motor industries will be a critical battle-ground. Already there are squeals of anguish from the motor industry. But if we want cleaner air, this battle will have to be fought and won. The air quality strategy is a good rallying point.

Also striking is the document's emphasis on local

councils and its determination to equip them to adapt air quality policies and measures suited to local conditions. In some parts there are few sources of pollution. In others there are all too many. In some areas there may be a higher tolerance of some level of pollution as the price of a vital economy and jobs than in others.

It makes good sense for local authorities to establish the appropriate trade-offs. It is refreshing to find a government document that embraces this wholeheartedly, and seeks to give councils powers to establish their own solutions.

There will be those who say that the Government is proposing to give power without resources to local government, and is handing it the most difficult and contentious problems of resolving conflicts which it does not itself know how to solve. But it would be a great mistake to write off the strategy in this way. If the task is real and the political demand for local action is there, powers and resources must eventually follow.

The strategy is only a draft. It now needs contributions from across the spectrum to fill it out, and to turn it from being a document that belongs to the DOE to one that is fully supported by the Department of Transport and the Treasury, by local government and the Environment Agency, by business and industry, and by local communities.

We need to press on with improving the emissions from industry and complete the remaining programmes of domestic smoke control. We need vigorous action to ensure existing standards on vehicle emissions. We need programmes to clean up or phase out filthy older buses and taxis that belch out diesel fumes and give public transport a bad name. We need much more vigorous experimentation with zero emission systems and vehicles. We need a much more determined effort to link planning, traffic management and public transport in a coherent way which gives people a genuine and viable alternative to using their cars.

Only in this way will we have a strategy that animates society, and helps to bring about a real difference to our environment. This latest document could be a good starting point.

The key test will be the ability of the Department of the Environment and the Department of Transport to make common cause. It is many years since they were joined in a single department and now they are moving into physically separate buildings. Our future air quality – and many other environmental goals – depends on the two working together.

The writer was Director General of environmental protection at the DOE from 1990 to 1993 and is a fellow of Green College, Oxford.

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Major's knights of the retreating army

The elevation of one of the Saatchis to the peerage has obviously puzzled many people, judging from the faxes, letters, e-mail, phone calls and suicide notes which I have received in the past 24 hours. It has obviously puzzled the Tory party as well, judging from the fact that Mr Michael Portillo was hauled out to defend this round of peerages, and when Mr Portillo is hauled out to defend something, that is a sure sign that it is indefensible.

My feeling is that in one sense the creation of Lord Saatchi is a good thing, as it gives encouragement to all those who have odd names. The British have always been quite good about accepting people with exotic names (Portillo, Rifkind, de Savary, etc) but even they have found Saatchi a curious arrangement of letters, like an unfortunate Scrabble hand. It seems to have no obvious derivation. It isn't an anagram of anything. It almost looks as if it has been made up by an ad agency...

But this is idle speculation, for quite clearly no one gets a peerage for having an unusual name, otherwise we would by now have Lord Boateng in the upper house. To get at the mystery of Lord Saatchi and Lord John Gummer's Brother, we have to go back to a man called Bernard Hollowood, who was editor of *Punch* when I joined the magazine. Unlike Malcolm Muggeridge, his predecessor, Hollowood was a convinced socialist and indeed when I joined *Punch* Bernard Hollowood was highly delighted at the recent election victory of Harold Wilson.

"At last," he said to me, "at last the chance to introduce a bit of socialism into this country. As long as they hold their nerve. And as long as they don't..."

"Yes?"

"As long as they don't try to be nice. Whenever a left-wing government gets elected, they spend the first few months convincing people that they are nice, gentle, caring people, not savage monsters. It's a ter-



Myles Kington

rible mistake. By the time they get round to seriously trying to introduce their policy, it's too late, because they are already caught up in a currency crisis, or budget crisis, or national strike or something. What a socialist government must do is introduce big changes from day one. They must do as much damage as soon as possible otherwise they will never get the chance again.

He must have been disappointed by Wilson's government, which did not exactly abolish public schools and private wealth at any time. He may, however, have been warmed by Mrs Thatcher's

methods, if not her policies, when she did as much damage as possible to the trade unions' power as quickly as possible in the first few months of her tenure. Maybe John Birt, in his youth, read something by Hollowood which prompted him to do as much damage as possible in the BBC when he first arrived.

I think, too, that Hollowood would advise Mr Blair to have a ruthless few months when he gets elected, for which the British public have already been prepared by the recent Tory ad campaign showing Blair as a devil. Blair should also bear in mind Quentin Crisp's analysis of the difference between Reagan and Thatcher. "They both wanted to rule the world, which is natural for a politician. But Mr Reagan also made the mistake of wanting to be liked, a mistake which Mrs Thatcher never came near making."

But there is also a corollary to Hollowood's idea, and that is the afterthought which says: "If you are going to be voted

out soon, if you are soon going to be an ex-government, now is also the time to do as much damage as you can." An incoming army can do what it wants, and so can a retreating army. It's only an occupying army that sometimes has to behave itself a bit better.

There is a good chance that the Tories will soon be evicted from their current territory, so quite naturally they are behaving as a retreating army does, blowing up railway lines, looting the treasury and making things difficult for the next lot. The Tories aren't actually blowing up railway lines, they are just privatising them, but the effect is much the same. They are not actually taking national treasures from the Tower of London, just awarding themselves and their supporters vast windfall pay rises, but it smells the same to the rest of us.

If anyone asks why Mr Saatchi is soon to take his place as Lord Saatchi, all I can say is that the Tories are following the old adage: "Gather ye knighthoods while ye may."

50 من الاموال

the commentators

"You're going to Bayreuth?" said the German woman beside me on the plane. "But why?" For the Wagner Festival, I explained. It's, er, quite famous. Abruptly her expression changed. "I know this! Of course I know this festival. But you mean you have a - a ticket?" Yup, I said, in the stalls actually. "What?" she demanded. "Why have you a ticket? I can have no ticket. For six years, I have tried. I have applied, I have begged and no ticket comes. But you, you..."

Germans take Bayreuth very seriously, very sacramentally. Wagner arrived in his adopted hometown in 1872 and the *Festspielhaus* began operating four years later. It has played only his stuff ever since, to increasingly rapt and religious audiences. Imagine: 120 years of the *Ring* cycle and *Die Meistersingers* and *Tristan und Isolde* and nothing else. The place is simply marinated in High Germanic style, tremulously with Teutonic respectfulness. Why, the very walls probably stand there humming the *Ride of the Valkyries* when everyone's gone home.

The first thing you see outside the *Festspielhaus* - its sweet frontage of primary-colour flowers surrounded by severe brickwork and cruciform embellishments, the very image of a church - is a gang of Wagnerites holding pieces of cardboard displaying the words "Suche carte - 1) *Tristan* 2) *Meistersingers*". These are the hardcore fans, desperate for tickets and unwilling to wait six years, or 2) become British journalists, in order to get them. They'd rather



John WALSH

Surviving the stifling purgatory of the *Ring* cycle at the Bayreuth Theatre requires more than good bladder control

you just handed over the ticket gold-dust out of human warmth (just as drugged-up Grateful Dead fans used to congregate outside the auditoria in which their heroes were playing, and pray to crystals for free tickets); but if not, they'll bribe you. One pleasant *hausfrau* got as far as offering the seat price of 210 deutschemarks (£100) plus commission, when from nowhere a weird, wafer-faced musicalologist loon swooped like a seagull, eager to double it.

By 3pm, they'd become a small army, including an older would-be auditor whose cardboard sign read, "Suche carte aus beste categorie". (None of your crummy back-of-the-stalls rubbish here, *darke*.) Oddly enough, there were no trout. Fashion-plates, however, were out in force. As we milled around the haus in the sunshine,

the cream of Mitteleuropa showed off its spangly threads. The prevailing mode was shimmering diamanté - knee-length jackets encrusted with rhinestones, padded-shoulder *objets* flickering with sequins, Fortuny tunics glimmering with lamé whatisits. All this gleaming Rhinemaids chic looked extraordinarily solid, like designer granite. And the oddness of the hour made it all seem bizarrely mistimed - the old German countess in fur stole and gold-chain clutchbag unfurling from a diplomatic limo, the volcanically fat china-doll blonde squeezed into black midnight lace and bombazine, the severe horse-faced Brunhilde in the Moorish-rectangle skirts, all were night creatures meant to be seen fleetingly by lamplight, not in plain view at four in the afternoon. Vivid European faces went by,

faces like Toby jugs, like English faces but more focused, stronger and harder.

It was virtually 10pm when we finally emerged, stunned and gasping, from the pressure cooker of Bayreuth. You don't stay inside all the time - the brautwurst-and-beer intervals are an hour long - but it's as close to imprisonment as I ever want to get. Inside the mile-wide auditorium, there are no aisles - you file towards your seat from either wall. Woe betide anyone who wishes to leave thereafter, whatever your level of boredom, claustrophobia or bursting bladder. And as the lights go down, and the minimal stagecraft performs its mesmeric trickery on you, you realise there's a kind of war on here, an I'm-being-more-attentive-than-thou battle among the devotees.

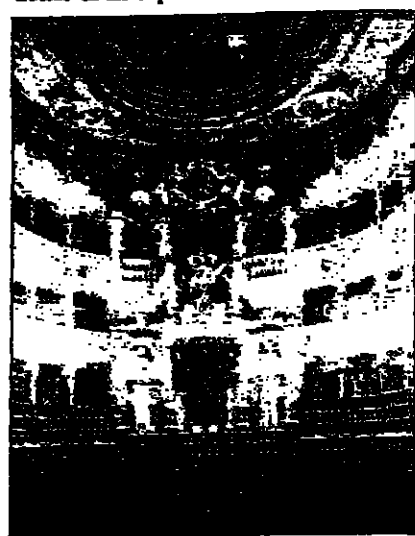
Fearing that my lunch might lead to embarrassing slumbers, I slipped some Wrigley's spearmint in my mouth to keep awake during the overture, and was forced to desist seconds later by the horrified gasps from my neighbours. Moved by the protracted love duet in Act II, I surreptitiously nibbled a fingernail. Immediately there were sharp intakes of breath from my left. It was like something from an HM *von und zum Bateman* cartoon. I briefly fantasised about taking a mouth organ from my breast pocket and emitting a blast of "The Blyden Races". Instead, I waited until his nerve broke in Act III and he finally emitted a tiny throat-clearing grunt, at which I swivelled through 90 degrees and went "Oh!" like a dowager confronted by a streaker. That's the trouble with Wagner

at close quarters. The silliest behaviour becomes... operatic.

The Treff hotel chain, in one of whose hostels I stayed, is a remarkable operation: a classy hotel company which goes out of its way to avoid any personal contact with guests. You carry your own bags. Their morning wake-up call eschews the human voice in favour of a Euro-pop ding-donging. Instead of packs of guest soap and bottles of shampoo in the bathroom, they

offer upside-down liquid containers. At the serve-yourself breakfast, the coffee is already sitting on your table in a Thermos. If you fancy a late snack, there's no cheery room service, just the minibar. But the most egregious display of don't-bother-us thinking is a sign on the wall accompanied by an ideogram of a tree. "Dear guest," it reads, "Try to imagine how many tons of bath towels are washed needlessly every day in all the hotels of the world - and the staggering amount of laundry detergent that is released into the environment as a result. Please... hang the towel on a rack if you wish to use it once more and help us use a little less detergent..."

Very handy, that German letter ß that stands for "ss" in words like *Schloß* and *Ringsstraße*. It looks oddly pleasing, with a fat and lordly dignity like a lethargic pig that has sat abruptly down upon the hissing snakes of the twin S's. It radiates a stolid finality. I think we should adopt it, and use henceforth a capital B where we used to have a double-S. It would solve a lot of problems. The homeless would lose the pathos of their lot in being merely homeleß. How evocatively neighbours could complain, "Damn it, your cat has made a disgusting meß on my lawn". Fastidious adolescents would tell each other, "That is just totally groß, Clive". Imagine the ignominy of working for a loß-making enterprise. And would not the concept of eternally, so dear to German hearts, be amusingly undercut when it became "endleßBneß"?



Bayreuth: the Mecca of Mitteleuropa

Why the new aliens are a force for unity

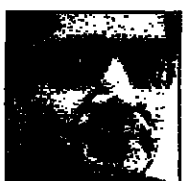
For once Hollywood is right. We can conquer one evil, but another will take its place

Extraterrestrial life is either a mirror in which we see ourselves - those alien societies imagined in *Star Trek* are always ill-disguised aspects of our own - or it is a blank sheet upon which we write our aspirations and anxieties - the hope for harmony, the fear of the intruder.

So the aliens we choose are indicators of our cultural condition. The life on Mars imagined - that is, for the moment, the right word - by NASA scientists is tiny, bacterial, suitably scaled for an age obsessed with the power of the virus, the prion and the molecule. We could not have found these traces had we not been concentrating on the microscopic. Another age might have found planet or galaxy-sized life forms. But we are not looking for that. Indeed, when James Lovelock proposed his Gaia hypothesis - suggesting that the Earth itself was, in some sense, a giant living system - he was at once ridiculed by the molecularly inclined mainstream. So there was some real wit in the joke of the novelist Douglas Adams about a mighty alien invasion fleet that launched an assault on Earth only, because of a fatal miscalculation of scale, to be swallowed by a small dog.

But, for aesthetic convenience, we usually imagine aliens to be about the same size as us. That way they can be nice

or nasty in recognisably human ways. And the good news is that aliens are nasty again. *Independence Day*, the hit sci-fi movie of the moment, is all about extremely nasty aliens. These creatures, with satanic, goat-like legs, are pure preda-



BRYAN APPELEYARD

tors. They roam space seeking out suitable planets where they can wipe out all life and exploit the resources that remain. They are, like Saddam Hussein or Gaddafi, beyond negotiation. When the American president asks one captured alien what we can do for them, the only response is the unhelpful "Die!" This is good news for American audiences as they like their killing to be justified by the knowledge that the bad guy is beyond redemption and the even better news is that, one on one, these aliens can be killed with old-fashioned hand-guns. If one turns up on his doorstep, Joe Six-Pack will know exactly what to do.

So they are just plain bad and their badness inspires a worldwide, concerted human effort to defeat them. This goes

against the dominant tendency of the past 30 years of movie sci-fi. *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* and *ET* were both about aliens of supreme, lovable goodness. Even in the shoot-outs of the *Star Wars* trilogy, the baddies are human while the vast menagerie of aliens are, for the most part, weird but nice. Indeed, the tautly uniformed, human fascists of the evil empire are only finally defeated with the aid of a woodland tribe of teddy bear-like woodland creatures.

There is an early form of political correctness at work here - a benign alien plurality evidently evokes a benign racial, religious and sexual plurality. And it is noticeable that *Independence Day* tries to avoid the potential incorrectness involved in hating aliens by ensuring that the American side consists of a carefully tossed racial salad.

As a result of those earlier global hits, the cuddly alien has become an icon of our time - represented in comics, toys and on TV. Of course, there were alternative movie visions, notably in the *Alien* trilogy. But the conflict with that monster was a significantly private drama, essentially a sophisticated acting out of sexual traumas. The benign, often foetal-like alien, from 2001 onwards, was intended to provide a warm, glowing message of hope to the world as a whole.

What, then, do the evil aliens

of *Independence Day* mean? Well, apparently, different things on different sides of the Atlantic. I saw the film in America, where the audience applauded wildly when the good guys finally cracked the alien defence system. Over here, I gather, audiences have been falling about in embarrassed laughter at the crude patriotism of it all, notably at the president's pallid, vernacular version of Henry V's speech before Agincourt. And the climactic conceit that, from now on, 4 July will be not just America's Independence Day is just too vulgar a display of American exceptionalism.

But I think the laughter indicates that our own native form of vulgarity - a crude, lazy sophistication - is lagging

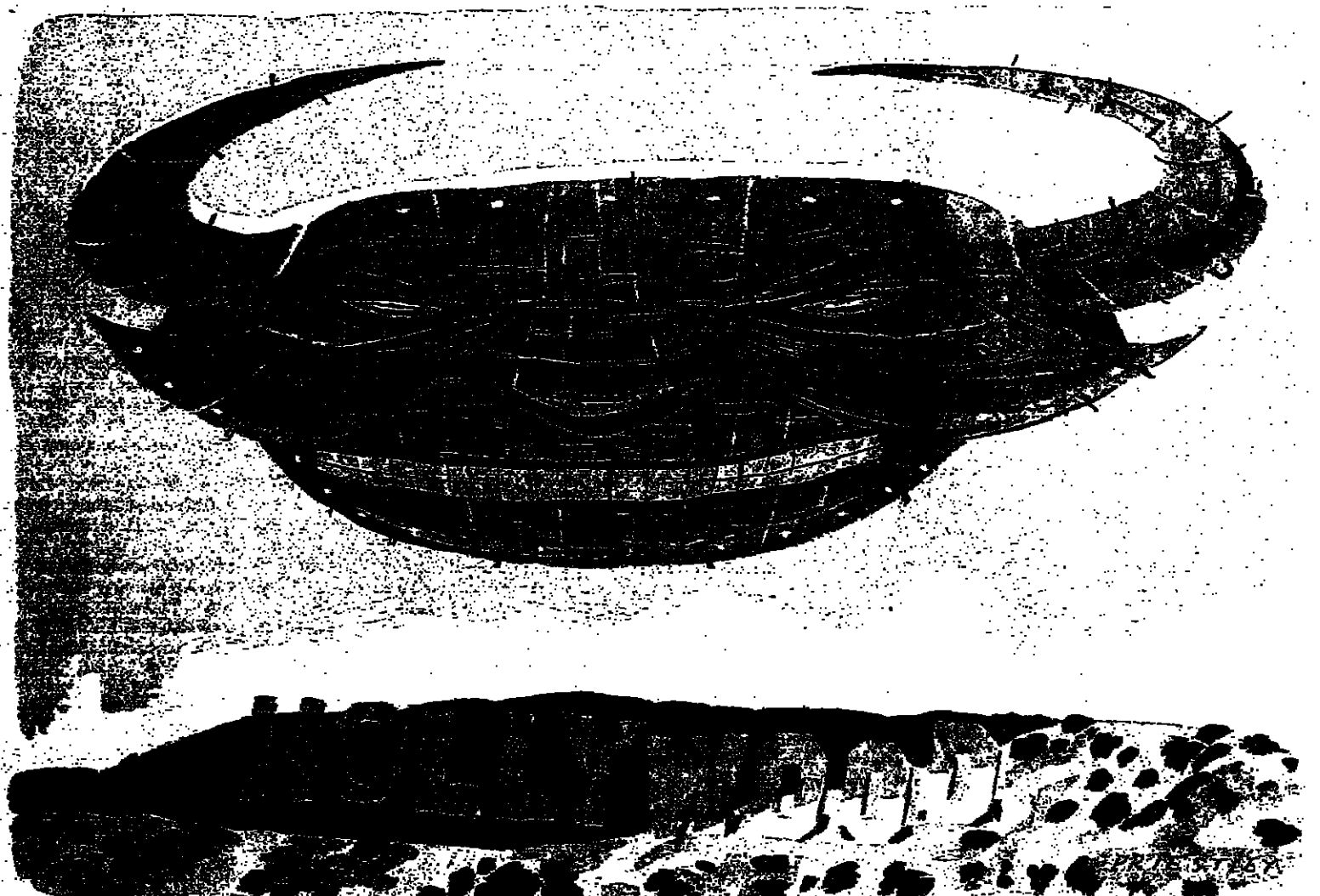
behind the latest twist in American idealism. For what this film is really about is a nostalgic yearning for a real, unarguable enemy. The Cold War, of course, provided such an enemy. In its early days this was simply the Soviets - *Invasion of the Body Snatchers*, in 1956, used silent, hidden alien invaders as a metaphor for silent, hidden communist subversives. Later the enemy became a more generalised sense of a human failure to overcome our conflicts - in *Close Encounters* and *ET* the ideal, harmonious alien life is contrasted with our own life of petty division and brutality. Indeed, the hero of *Close Encounters* in effect boards the space ship as a way out of a bad marriage. No wonder the aliens were seen as foetal innocents. But, since the Cold War, the

world has remained divided without either clear enemies or easy, ideological rationales for our divisions. Our guns are pointed at nobody, the American hero has become a cowboy searching for extinct Indians. It's no good trying to imagine an ideal alien order, because, now, this should be ideal, but it is not. Conquering big conflicts doesn't work because little ones start up all over the place. The alien saga must therefore reinvent the big, systemic conflict. But this is not against an economic theory, it is against an uncompromising, predatory civilisation. A book by Harvard Professor Sam Huntington, to be published later this year, will speak of a "clash of civilisations" which will supersede the old wars between ideologies and nation states. Well, one

step ahead of Harvard, here it is on the big screen.

I think this is good news because, though *Independence Day* is a poor film when set against those earlier alien operas, it resurrects the idea of evil. A warm, beneficent glow is all very well in its way, but it's a pretty useless basis for social

order. Evil exists and it's not going to be wished away. If the infinite sentimentality, ephemerality and ingenuity of Hollywood decides that the fashion now is in favour of uniting us against evil, as opposed to drifting dreamily away from it, then, for this fleeting moment, Hollywood has got it right.



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THE CENTRAL FACTS FROM THE COURSES YOU ALWAYS MEANT TO TAKE, IN 25 LECTURES

When the monthly inflation (or unemployment, or output, or countless other economic) statistics are released, all ears turn to the pin-striped City economists for analysis. Inflation down, interest rates up, the pound down, the markets buoyant, unemployment rising: such is the stuff of the economics we see on television or read in the paper.

Faced with such mysterious jargon, the only alternatives seem to be to give up on economics altogether or to invest several years studying it, as plenty of teenagers are about to do this autumn. But the DTY economist need not give up. There is a pathway between the extremes, which starts from the economic decisions we each make, and the economic consequences that flow from them.

Every day we make trade-offs, choosing to spend our limited time and money in different ways. Firms decide to make rollerblades rather than computer games, to set the same price as their competitors or to undercut them. Individuals decide to buy tomatoes or lettuce, to work or to study. Economics is the study of these decisions: what the textbooks call "the allocation of scarce resources". Of course, our decisions are

not just affected by financial costs and benefits. Our interests, talents, expectations, morality, class background - even government policy - all have an impact on the choices we make. Good economics - stretching its talons into sociology, politics, and occasionally psychology, too - should be able to take these things into account.

Economists also try to explain the overall outcomes of these many individual decisions - using models to simplify the complex interactions that are taking place. And the one model they use more than anything else is that of supply and demand.

Take those rollerblades. If rollerblades suddenly become fashionable, demand goes up. Suppose that the firms can't produce them fast enough to keep up; new blades are scarce, and prices rise. In the short term, only those who are rich enough or determined enough will be prepared to pay such extortionate prices, and in economists' language, "the market will clear".

However, since making rollerblades has become profitable, firms will compete to produce more, supply will go up too, and prices will fall again - and moderate enthusiasts will be able to afford blades after all. The knees and elbows of the nation will be bloodier,



WEEK 3 DAY 4

Economics

LECTURER: Yvette Cooper

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BUSINESS NEWS DESK: Tel 0171 293 2636 fax 0171 293 2098

CITY & BUSINESS EDITOR: JEREMY WARNER

TransCo dispute: Company claims that watchdog's revised transportation formula is 'savage by anyone's standards'

Gas prices row set to end in MMC referral

CHRIS GODSMARK
Business Correspondent

The bitter dispute between British Gas and Ofgas, the industry watchdog, appeared to be moving headlong towards a referral to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission yesterday after the company attacked a revised package of price controls for the pipeline business, TransCo.

The regulator, Clare Spottiswoode, insisted she had "backed down" over some elements of her original formula in response to British Gas's unprecedented publicity offensive, which resulted in 25,000 angry letters to Ofgas from small shareholders or "Sids".

But British Gas's deputy chairman, Philip Rogerson, said the value of the concessions was "minimal", and would still result in between 8,000 and 10,000 redundancies. He described the revised controls as "thoroughly disappointing" and "savage by anyone's standards".

The final proposals would cut transportation charges, which account for almost half of domestic gas bills, by 20 per cent from next April. That is at the bottom end of the 20 per cent to 35 per cent range outlined by the regulator three months ago. It would knock £28 off an average household bill of £325.

Prices would increase over the following four years by 2.5 percentage points less than inflation, compared with reductions of 5 percentage points in the previous formula, making a

total cut for consumers by the end of the price regime in 2001-2002 of £55. An average small business customer would save around £860, or 13 per cent. In total, domestic and industrial consumers will benefit by £3bn.

The price cuts received a warm welcome from the Gas Consumers Council. Its director, Ian Powe, said: "Ofgas has now redressed the balance between 2 million shareholders ... and 18 million consumers now revealed as having paid nearly 10 per cent over the odds to fund British Gas's wealth."

British Gas has until 7 October to agree to the controls, or face a certain referral to the MMC. Ms Spottiswoode said she was "not going to change anything of substance". She explained: "I feel very strongly that we will win ... if it went to the MMC." However, British Gas said it hoped the six week consultation period would leave room for further negotiations.

Hopes of a compromise boosted British Gas's share price, which ended the day 6.5p higher, at 204.5p. But gas analysts were gloomy about the chances of avoiding a lengthy and expensive MMC inquiry. Rod Maclean, from stockbrokers ABN Amro Hoare Govett, said: "I don't think she has given much ground. I still think this goes to the MMC."

concerns that the cuts could compromise safety standards. Ms Spottiswoode said her proposals had satisfied the Health and Safety Executive.

In addition, the regulator has added £700m to the value of TransCo's asset base, on which it will be allowed to earn a 7 per cent rate of return. The new asset value of £11.7bn is above the original range of £9bn to £11bn, because Ofgas has dropped a plan to clawback depreciation paid by British Gas on past investment.

But on the more fundamental area of disagreement, how much room TransCo should be allowed for depreciation in future years, the gap remains as wide as ever. British Gas wanted to be able to charge depreciation on the entire £17bn book-value of TransCo's assets. Ofgas says it can only depreciate the reduced £11.7bn "regulatory" asset value.

Ms Spottiswoode, flanked by Doctor Eileen Marshall, Ofgas economist and the main author of the review, argued that on British Gas's assumptions consumers would be paying for investment twice. She said she was confident her approach was consistent with that taken by other utility regulators, and by the MMC's investigation into British Gas in 1993, which recommended that the company should be broken up.

But this argument only deepened the rift with British Gas. "I reject utterly the claim that she is consistent with the MMC's 1993 findings," said



Implacable: Clare Spottiswoode of Ofgas said, 'I feel very strongly that we will win' Photograph: Kevin Coombe/Reuters

Mr Rogerson. "She is wholly inconsistent."

He said "softening" the price cuts from 5 percentage points below inflation in May's proposals, to 2.5 percentage points less than inflation, would only give TransCo an extra £400m in five years out of total revenues of more than £16bn. "I'm quite

clear that the economic effect of the change is minimal," added Mr Rogerson.

Richard Alderman, an analyst at NatWest Markets, said the price controls still implied a big reduction in TransCo's dividend payout to shareholders when the business is split off from British Gas next year.

"There's no way you can physically avoid cutting the dividend and the management look like they're going to stand up for shareholders' rights," he said.

There was a mixed reaction to the changes from industrial users. The managing director of a large gas supplier, who declined to be named, said: "I'm

pleased that Ofgas hasn't done a complete about-face on this, despite all the pressure."

However, the Energy Intensive Users' Group, was disappointed the regulator had not gone for price reductions of 28 per cent next year, at the top of the original range.

Comment, page 19

Spending dip takes City by surprise

NIC CICUTTI

Claims of a runaway consumer spending boom were dented yesterday by data showing that retail sales underwent a surprise 0.6 per cent drop in July.

The fall last month followed a 1.4 per cent rise in June, taking the year-on-year growth rate to 2.2 per cent, said the Office for National Statistics.

A Treasury spokesman welcomed the figures and claimed sales were "on an upward trend". But many City economists, who had been expecting a small rise, were surprised by the dip.

They added that the figures would strengthen arguments by the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, for a further cut in base rates in the run-up to the General Election next year.

Jonathan Loynes, UK economist at HSBC Greenwich, said: "The figures will help to ease fears of a return to a 1980s-style consumer boom and will provide useful ammunition for Mr Clarke."

The Office of National Statistics' data showed British shoppers were feeling the benefit of cheaper mortgages costs, tax cuts and rising incomes after years of tough pay restraint.

High spending on expensive household items in particular, up 3.8 per cent in the year to July, suggested consumers are feeling more confident about the future, largely thanks to higher real incomes as tax and interest rate cuts hit home. Spending on household items was fuelled by the recovery in the housing market.

However, other analysts said a rate cut based on one month's fall in shop sales would be a risky strategy and the Chancellor might then come under pressure for a politically unpopular rate rise before the general election.

Alex Garrard, UK economist at UBS, the Swiss banking group, said: "We are inclined to view the monthly drop in retail sales as an aberration."

"[It] reflects a rebound from the extraordinarily high level of retail activity in June, which was somewhat artificially boosted by a weather-related jump in clothing and footwear sales and spending of overseas visitors [over] here to watch the Euro '96 Football Championships."

One economist suggested that if the Chancellor were to insist on another rate cut, there would be another clash with Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, who is implacably opposed to a reduction.

The two men disagreed in June when rates were cut by 0.25 of a percentage point to 5.75 per cent, with the Bank of England warning that strong consumer spending might mean inflation picking up next year.

Despite hopes of further interest cuts helping share prices, the FT-SE 100 index fell back 11 points from its record high the day before, to 3,872.1 by close of trade yesterday.

BNFL in \$600m US contract

MICHAEL HARRISON

The state-owned nuclear waste reprocessor BNFL was yesterday celebrating its biggest ever overseas order - a \$600m (£387m) contract to clean up a huge nuclear site built originally as part of the United States arms programme.

BNFL is part of a five-member consortium awarded a \$60m contract to treat, store and dispose of nuclear waste at the massive Savannah River site in South Carolina, which was used to manufacture weapons grade plutonium from the 1950s.

The contract, awarded by the US Department of Energy, brings the amount of work won by the group's US subsidiary BNFL Inc, to almost \$1bn since its formation six years ago. BNFL Inc is already a member of a consortium awarded the clean-up contract at the Rocky Flats site near Denver, Colorado, worth some \$50m a year.

The other members of the consortium chosen for the Savannah River project are Westinghouse, Bechtel and Babcock and Wilcox. Apart from waste recycling and treatment, BNFL will also provide technical support and personnel.

In recent years BNFL has been targeting the US, Western Europe and the Far East for export orders as a strategy to reduce its dependence on the nuclear power generator British Energy, privatised a month ago.

Graham Watts, BNFL's international group director, said: "Last year we were named as Britain's fastest growing exporter in an independent survey. Our performance this year demonstrates that our growth record will continue."

GWR poised to take control of Classic FM

MATTHEW HORSMAN
Media Editor

GWR, the quoted commercial radio company, is ready to take control of Classic FM, one of four national radio stations in the UK, sources close to the company said last night.

A deal that would see GWR buy a 33 per cent stake in Classic FM, currently owned by Time Warner, the US media giant, could be announced as soon as tomorrow. GWR already owns 17 per cent of the station.

John Spearman, the head of Classic FM, cut short his holiday, and returned to London yesterday. His position is in danger, as sources indicate he may step down following the buyout.

There is a possibility that GWR will also buy out minority shareholdings in Classic FM, owned by Capital Radio and Daily Mail & General Trust,

both of which hold substantial stakes in GWR.

The moves are linked to growing dissatisfaction, particularly at DMGT, about Classic's ill-advised foray into Europe, notably in Sweden.

It is believed that DMGT has been behind the moves to position GWR as the controlling shareholder. The media group, which publishes the *Daily Mail* and the *Mail on Sunday*, has recently decided to concentrate on radio as a prime acquisition target, following a relaxation of the rules governing cross-media ownership. It is also a player in local television, as owner of Channel One, the cable-exclusive "City TV" station in London.

Classic FM has been a success in the UK, and is one of four national services - the others are Virgin, Atlantic 252 and Talk Radio - to win licences from the Radio Authority. But the international expansion has

proved disastrous, undercutting the contribution to earnings from the core UK service.

GWR is one of the fastest growing regional radio groups, and most recently took management control of London News Radio from Reuters, the financial information giant.

It has never been awarded a licence by the Radio Authority under the new licensing round, despite many attempts, but has been growing by acquisition, at home and abroad. Its chief executive, Ralph Bernard, is tipped to become chief executive of Classic FM. If the deal goes through, GWR will control a national licence for the first time.

Capital Radio, now thought to be a takeover target following the passage of the liberalising Broadcasting Bill, had no comment on the plans to restructure shareholdings at Classic FM. Speculation has been



John Spearman: Classic FM chief's position in doubt

growing that Capital, which owns the leading commercial radio station in London, could be taken over by DMGT, which publishes London's *Evening Standard* newspaper.

The new broadcasting rules would allow DMGT to take over Capital, despite the fact that they share the national advertising market in Greater London.

Talks fail to defuse Refuge merger row

A row threatening the proposed £1.4bn merger between Refuge Assurance and its rival United Friendly looked no closer to being resolved last night, writes Nic Cicutti.

Senior executives from both insurance groups held a lengthy meeting yesterday with Perpetual, a leading Refuge shareholder which is opposed to the deal.

Neil Woodford, income fund manager at Perpetual, said that while the meeting had been cordial, he still had to make up his mind on the issues at stake.

"The meeting at our offices in Henley-on-Thames was lengthy and very detailed," Mr Woodford said. "The other sides put their case very forcefully and we have some very important decisions to make in the next week or so."

"I do not want to prejudice things by saying how I feel about things at the moment because there will now need to be

some discussions with analysts and others."

Mr Woodford added that during the meeting he was left in no doubt that John Cudworth, Refuge chief executive, and George Mack, United Friendly's current finance director and chief executive-designate in the merged insurer, both strongly believed in the benefits of the deal to both shareholders and policyholders.

But Perpetual, which owns about 7 per cent of Refuge shares, still needs to be satisfied about those benefits before it would vote in favour of the merger at a special meeting of shareholders next month. Neither Mr Cudworth nor Mr Mack could be contacted for comment yesterday.

The wrangle between Perpetual and Refuge centres on the exact proportion of the £500m of so-called "orphan assets", which are attributable to shareholders before the merger with United Friendly takes place.

If you see Fritz, tell him it's time for 'T'

Europe's biggest ever flotation, the DM15bn (£6.5bn) sale of shares in Deutsche Telekom, was launched yesterday with a campaign to tell Fritz, Sid's German counterpart, all about the joys of popular capitalism, writes Michael Harrison.

Up to 40 per cent of the shares are being set aside for the retail offer and, in the style of UK privatisations, small investors are being tempted to apply with a host of incentives. In format and presentation, the Deutsche Telekom sell-off is barely distinguishable from those of British Gas and BT in

the 1980s. Priority will be given to investors who register with the equivalent of the share information office and retail investors will be eligible for a discount to the price paid by institutions in the international offer.

The marketing campaign accompanying the offer is also familiar. It's a little less inventive than the British campaigns on which it is styled. The campaign began with posters and television commercials of people holding their arms aloft in the shape of a T to signify that this is the T (or Telekom) share offer.

The tempo is about to step up with a series of advertisements fronted by Manfred Cook, a well-known German television actor whose most famous portrayal is of a Berlin lawyer - a sort of cross between Perry Mason and Inspector Morse.

Germany has seen nothing like it since the early 1960s when the public was invited to buy shares in Volkswagen. But Deutsche Telekom is in a different league.

When the shares start trading in late November, the company will be capitalised at £32bn to £39bn. The share sale

will be the second biggest in the world after the flotation of the Japanese telecoms company NTT in the mid-1980s.

So far, 1.5 million individuals have registered with the share information office to be sure of their discount on the first 300 shares, expected to be priced at around DM33.

It is no coincidence that the similarities are so striking between the Deutsche Telekom flotation and the UK offers of the last decade. The company's financial adviser is Rothschilds, an old hand at privatisation, and the PR advisers are Dewe Roger-

son, who have looked after more UK privatisations than anyone, most recently the Railtrack and British Energy sell-offs.

For them the timing could not be better. The UK privatisation programme may have reached an end, but, on current planning, it will take Germany's government until 2006 to dispose of Deutsche Telekom. That should ensure a healthy stream of fee income for the global co-ordinators, Dresdner bank, Goldman Sachs and Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, not to mention the 65 members of the German and international banking syndicates.

French firm may buy third rail franchise

CHRISTIAN WOLMAR
Transport Correspondent

The French-owned transport company CGEA could gain control of the whole former Southern Region of British Rail, one of its senior executives said yesterday at the announcement of its successful bid for South Eastern Trains.

The company, operating under the name Connex, now has control of two of the three main companies making up the old Southern Region, Britain's largest commuting area, as it already runs the Network SouthCentral franchise.

South Eastern covers services to Kent, part of south London and is the neighbouring franchise to Network SouthCentral. The new franchise is for 15 years and involves the purchase of 125 train sets at a cost of £400m, a requirement of the terms of the franchise set by the franchising director, Roger Salmon. The first of the new units will be in service by 1999.

At the launch yesterday the Connex vice-chairman Antoine Hurel said that if the South West trains franchise - the third part of the old Southern Region - came on the market, "we would bid for it". SWT is now controlled by Stagecoach but the company's bid for one of the rolling stock companies

(Roscos), Porterbrook, raises the possibility of the regulatory authorities making it divest the SWT franchise.

Mr Hurel also threw the whole issue of the future of the rolling stock market into further confusion. He said Connex had examined the way in which it would acquire its new trains and "we have decided that, at the moment, the best method is to form our own Rosco".

However, now that the bid for South Eastern trains had been confirmed, Connex would be talking to the Roscos and train manufacturers to see if a better deal emerged. If such a big new order did not go to the existing Roscos, it would put a big question mark over their future existence, once their present leases ran out.

Connex will receive £125.4m in subsidy to run South Eastern, compared with BR's present subsidy of £120.8m. But the amount will fall off over the life of the franchise, at the end of which, in 2011, Connex will make a payment of £2.8m to the franchising director.

South Eastern is not allowed to merge with Network SouthCentral but Mr Hurel said that there would be joint use of administrative systems, logos, ticketing services, and branding. All tickets between the two would be interchangeable, he added.

STOCK MARKETS									
Index	Close	Day's change	Change(%)	1996 High	1996 Low	YTD(%)	Index	Close	Day's change
FTSE 100	3872.10	-11.10	-0.3	3883.20	3632.30	4.04	Nikkei	22600.00	-100.00
FTSE 250	4387.40	+2.10	+0.0	4568.60	4015.30	3.44	Dow Jones	5950.00	-10.00
FTSE 350	1937.40	-1.20	-0.2	1945.40	1816.80	3.91			
FT Small Cap	2148.47	+3.75	+0.2	2244.36	1954.06	3.09			
FT All Share	1914.19	-3.59	-0.2	1924.17	1791.95	3.85			
New York	5686.75	-26.51	-0.5	5776.00	5292.94	2.18			
Hong Kong	21276.02	+148.01	+0.7	22066.80	19734.70	0.751			
Frankfurt	11436.50	+123.90	+1.1	11594.99	10804.87	3.401			
	2543.74	-18.52	-0.8	2583.49	2253.36	1.791			

Source: FT Information

INTEREST RATES									
Short sterling*			UK medium gilt			US long bond			
Index	1 Month	3 Month	Index	1 Month	3 Month	Index	1 Month	3 Month	5 Year
UK	5.75	6.00	7.84	8.08	7.97	8.16			
US	5.31	5.84	6.58	6.59	6.83	6.92			
Japan	0.44	0.81	3.10	3.19	-	-			
Germany	3.31	3.41	6.35	6.70	7.07	-			

CURRENCIES									
Money Market Rates			Bond Yields *			FX			
Index	1 Month	3 Month	Index	1 Month	3 Month	Index	1 Month	3 Month	5 Year
UK	5.75	6.00	7.84	8.08	7.97	8.16			
US	5.31	5.84	6.58	6.59	6.83	6.92			
Japan	0.44	0.81	3.10	3.19	-	-			
Germany	3.31	3.41	6.35	6.70	7.07	-			

500 من الاصل



The Ofgas climbdown gives very little away

Clare Spottiswoode may sometimes come over a bit like a giddy schoolgirl, just aching to show the boys in the top class that she cannot be pushed about, but her handling of the TransCo price review promises to be an object lesson in how to get your regulatory way.

The final set of proposals that the director general of Ofgas sent across to British Gas yesterday is as cleverly constructed a package as we are likely to see. There is surely art in the way it manages to convey the impression of climbdown while actually giving very little away.

Certainly the markets appeared to have bought the manoeuvre, greeting the news of a nice fat £30 off gas bills next year by propelling British Gas shares briefly to their highest level since the onset of the regulatory shakes in May.

Ms Spottiswoode has listened to British Gas, and a host of other representations, and concluded that her May proposals were indeed too ghastly for shareholders to contemplate. So she has cut the one-off reduction in charges from 28 to 20 per cent, softened the price reductions thereafter from 5 per cent to 2.5 per cent, and raised the regulatory asset base on which TransCo can make a return and charge depreciation from a bottom of the range £9bn to just short of £12bn. And finally she has decided that British Gas should be able to earn a 7 per cent rate of return, a level which compares favourably with other regulated monopolies.

So why is British Gas cutting up so rough and threatening to storm off to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission?

Well, if you add up the Spottiswoode concessions, they actually amount to not a lot. In total they will allow TransCo to earn some £400m more than it would have been allowed under the May proposals—not very much when you are looking at a revenue stream of some £16bn over the course of the five year price control formula.

However, in two important areas Ms Spottiswoode has probably done enough to stay out of jail should the MMC be called on as final arbiter. She has demonstrated that her proposals on depreciation do not amount to a clawback of past profits. And she has demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Health and Safety Executive and British Gas itself, that her controls on operating expenditure will not compromise safety.

British Gas now has until 7 October to decide whether the MMC is likely to offer shareholders a better deal. It is hard to imagine that it will. The prospect, meanwhile, of a long and exhausting inquiry is hardly the distraction that a business wants when it is breaking itself in two and fending off an assault on its captive markets at the same time.

The belligerent noises coming from the British Gas camp and the implacable stance of Ms Spottiswoode might suggest that the two are inevitably on track for the

MMC. But British Gas has six weeks for cool contemplation. The wiser course would be to accept.

Philip Rogerson, the British Gas deputy chairman who has led the side in the battle with Ofgas, would be deeply and fatally embarrassed if, in the end, the company backs down and accepts what is on offer. After the way he has rallied against the proposals, he cannot now credibly admit that British Gas can live with them after all. But then Mr Rogerson, a decent man in a difficult job, is expendable. He appears not to have a future in either of the two companies created when BG does the splits, or at least not one that has been publicly announced. It is all two likely that Mr Rogerson will be one of the casualties of British Gas's last stand.

There's not much happening, and it is still the silly season, so invention seems the only course. Here's the game – fantasy takeover. The rules hardly need explaining. The idea is merely to come up with a credible takeover proposal. The client in this case is Bernard Arnault, chairman of the French luxury goods giant LVMH. He owns more than 20 per cent of Guinness (not fantasy this, he really does) and he's very unhappy with his investment. Most of this unhappiness is nothing to do with Guinness. It's to do with the strength of the French franc when Mr Arnault first

bought into Guinness he was paying 10 francs and more for every pound. Today he gets only 7.5 francs a pound for his investment.

But his unhappiness is more than this. In recent years Guinness shares have severely underperformed and though nobody disputes that this is anything other than a well managed and highly effective company, there is no doubt that its main products and markets are mature ones, that the company isn't really going anywhere. So what can Mr Arnault do about it? The obvious answer is to take advantage of the strength of the franc while it lasts and bid for the company.

When LVMH first linked with Guinness under Sir Anthony Tennant, this would have been an impossibility for Guinness was by far the larger of the two companies in terms of market capitalisation. Today the positions are reversed. Furthermore, Mr Arnault has tidied up his empire and many of the doubts that existed in capital markets over his allegedly Maxwellian tendencies – a penchant for moving assets around the empire without regard for the interests of outside shareholders – have fallen away.

From the retiring, very private tycoon he once was, Mr Arnault is transformed into France's most high profile businessman. He's close to President Chirac, who's a sucker for Mr Arnault's highly potent mix of top French fashion and drinks. Hardly

a day passes when Mr Arnault is not in the newspapers. Mr Arnault would have no difficulty in raising the necessary finance to bid for Guinness.

The deal could in any case be made virtually painless by selling Guinness's brewing interests to the likes of Anheuser-Busch. Taking into account the proceeds of this sale and his existing Guinness stake, Mr Arnault could probably acquire control of the core scotch whisky and spirits business for an outlay of not much more than £5bn. Just fantasy? Well maybe, but not so incredible as not already to have earned investment bankers a fee or two.

Intriguing to see "wealth creation" cited by the Government as a main reason for Maurice Saatchi's elevation into the House of Lords. What on earth could ministers be thinking of? Maurice may or may not have created a fair amount of wealth for himself, but for most City investors it is for services to "wealth destruction" that he will be chiefly remembered. The undoubted genius of Saatchi & Saatchi in the 1970s was used as a spring board in the 1980s for a period of profligate spending and hubris that was to result in a quite spectacular loss of shareholder value. The truth is that Maurice lost the City a packet. Any wealth created was squandered. Ministers may still be under the illusion that Maurice is a "wealth creator", but hardly anyone else is.

Milk wholesaler agrees to OFT prices shake-up

NIGEL COPE

The battle over wholesale milk prices, which has soured relations between the dairy companies and Milk Marque, abated yesterday when the industry's wholesaling body gave assurances to the Office of Fair Trading that it would modify its milk-selling system.

The director general of Fair Trading, John Bridgeman, said he would not now refer the supply of milk to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission but would "monitor the situation closely". He added that he would not hesitate to take further action should it prove necessary.

The main dairy companies such as Unigate and Northern Foods have complained bitterly about the existing Milk Marque pricing structure, saying it fails to reflect supply and demand and results in higher prices for consumers.

Currently, the system allows prices to rise when there is an excess demand for milk but does not provide for a corresponding fall in prices when there is a demand shortfall.

The big change is that if Milk Marque receives a bid for less than 90 per cent of the milk on offer it will lower the price and

hold a further round of bidding. The changes will not come into force until next April.

The Dairy Industry Federation gave a "cautious welcome" to the changes though adding that it would need to see how they worked in practice. The Federation's John Price said some of the principles lacked detail and other points were still unclear.

"It's a step forward but we will need to see how it works in practice before we give the changes our wholehearted support," Mr Price said that the OFT's statement did not address Milk Marque's monopoly over the transport of raw milk. Dairy companies feel they should have the option of providing their own transport arrangement if it can be shown that their systems are more efficient than Milk Marque's.

Shares of big dairy companies rose on the news. Unigate shares closed 10p higher at 432p. Northern Foods put on 3p at 205p.

David Hallam, an analyst at the broker Williams de Broe, said: "There is now a mechanism under which milk prices can go down when the market conditions show it would do so under normal circumstances." He added that in the current climate of over-production of

milk in the UK "milk prices should go down".

Both the Northern Foods chairman, Christopher Haskins, and the Unigate chairman, Ian Martin, have attacked the Milk Marque price structure, regularly giving vent to their anger at its results presentations. "There has been a fairly concerted effort by all the major milk processors. This is a result of that," Mr Hallam concluded.

The Government deregulated the milk market in November 1994, sweeping away the old Milk Marketing Board system in a move which sent milk prices sky high.

The Dairy Industry Federation made a formal complaint to the OFT at the time of deregulation that Milk Marque was abusing its dominant position in the milk market to inflate prices.

The leading dairies have been battling against a sharp fall in doorstep sales of milk as a growing number of households opt to buy cheaper milk at supermarkets. Doorstep sales have fallen by around 16 per cent on last year. Both Northern Foods and Unigate have taken radical action to restructure their milk businesses, including the closure of many bottling plants.

Mersey Docks says dispute may drag on

TOM STEVENSON
City Editor

The Mersey Docks and Harbour Company is meeting Bill Morris, general secretary of the Transport & General Workers Union, later this month in a bid to resolve its long-running dispute with 329 former dockers it sacked at the end of last year. Mersey warned, however, that it held out little hope of striking a compromise deal with the workers who have already rejected an offer of £25,000 a head severance pay.

The ongoing costs of the dispute, together with escalating losses at Eurolink, a passenger and freight ferry service between Kent and Holland, lay behind a 17 per cent fall in pre-tax profits at the port operator in the six months to June. The company said yesterday that it had taken the decision within the last month to close the passenger side of Eurolink, which started only two years ago, and attempt to sell the remaining freight operation.

Gordon Waddell, chairman, said Mersey Docks was keen to resolve the running dispute at Liverpool Port because it was thought likely to jeopardise the company's attempts to attract new business to the port. Earlier this summer, Mersey's largest container customer, Atlantic Container Line, transferred its custom to Thamesport, although it subsequently returned to Liverpool, giving Mersey what one analyst described as "one last chance".

The dispute started when 329 Mersey employees refused to cross a picket line set up by 80



Beset: Liverpool's port operations have continued to grow, in spite of the ongoing wranglings. Photograph: Craig Easton

workers at an independent stevedoring company who had lost their jobs. Mersey sacked the whole workforce and replaced them with new staff who, it claims, are working up to 45 per cent more productively.

Initially the company made an offer to reinstate 100 of the men and pay the rest £25,000 in compensation, but it withdrew

its offer when ACL moved its trade to Thamesport. Despite the return of ACL last month, the company now says there is no prospect of it re-employing any of the sacked workers.

Although the dispute cast a cloud over Mersey's interim figures, they were hit much harder by a £4.5m loss from Eurolink which was the largest fac-

tor in a decline in group profits from £16.8m to £13.9m in the half year. Earnings per share fell from 12.6p to 10.7p. The dividend, reflecting the company's belief that this year's problems were mainly one-offs, increased 10 per cent to 4p (3.65p).

The company pointed to increased competition on the Irish Sea where sharp price

erosion led to attributable losses of £633,000 at Merchant Ferries, in which Mersey has a 50 per cent stake. But it said the core port operations at both Liverpool and Medway continued to grow.

At Liverpool, total port cargo handled increased by 800,000 tonnes to 15.1m tonnes. Investment column, page 20

IN BRIEF

• **USAir**, 25 per cent owned by British Airways, has applied for permission to serve London's Heathrow Airport from Boston, Charlotte, Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. In its filing the group cites the need for competition in the US-UK air transport market in view of the proposed alliance between British Airways and American Airlines. The airline states it would provide the only US-flag competition in each of the four cities to the service to be provided by the proposed BA-American alliance, which would otherwise have total dominance in these markets. USAir claims its route network makes it "uniquely suited" to give consumers effective choice on schedules, prices and levels of service between almost 200 US cities and the UK. It strongly supports the US government's efforts to secure an open-skies agreement with the UK.

• **Pan American Airways** could be taking to the skies again. The US Transportation Department issued an order this week concluding that the airline is "fit, willing and able" to resume service. The department can expect objections from families of those who died in the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland in 1988. A jury ruled in 1992 that Pan Am was responsible for allowing a bomb aboard the flight. The new managers insist that they plan a new airline, and say they plan to stress safety. The new Miami-based airline purchased the Pan Am trademarks from the former liquidated company. The new Pan Am proposes services to New York from Los Angeles, San Francisco and Miami, with more routes planned.

• **Marley**, the plastics and building materials group, warned that recovery in the UK housing market remained anaemic. "We are seeing some signs of slow improvement in July and in the first few weeks of August, but there is some uncertainty about it and nobody is confident enough to say it will now take off," said chief executive David Trapnell. Marley raised interim profits from £24.1m to £63.2m after including a £42.6m gain on the sale of its automotive plastics operation earlier this year. Operating profits rose only 3 per cent, despite a bounce back at Syroco, a US plastic garden furniture maker acquired last year. UK roof tile volumes fell by nearly 15 per cent in the period and South Africa was difficult. Investment Column, page 20.

• **Jarvis Hotels** has acquired the hotel trading as Holiday Inn Gatwick East from the Scandic Hotels Group for £8.62m cash.

• **Rolls-Royce** has won a £60m order for Boeing aircraft. United Parcel Service has chosen RB211-535 engines to power five additional Boeing 757 aircraft, raising to 40 the package carrier's total number of Rolls-Royce powered 757s on firm order.

• **Able UK** is creating up to 400 jobs at a new oil and gas rig recycling plant. The Teesside Environmental Reclamation and Recycling Centre, the first of its kind in Europe, is being built on a former construction yard in Hartlepool.

• **Rentokil Group** has appointed Brian McGowan, non-executive chairman of House of Fraser, and Robert Napier, chief executive of Redland, as non-executive directors. Mr McGowan will also join Rentokil's remuneration committee.

• **Highland Distilleries** chief executive, Brian Ivory, has been appointed chairman of Macallan-Glenlivet, replacing Allan Shiach.

UK firms face councils crisis

BARRY CLEMENT
Labour Editor

Some 40 top British companies face legal action unless they set up a European works council within the next month, according to the TUC.

The companies, many of them household names, are alleged to have ignored European legislation which will force them to establish systems to consult their workers.

The TUC cites British Aerospace, GEC, Grand Metropolitan, Thorn and Vickers as among the companies who have failed to negotiate works councils.

John Monks, General Secretary of the TUC, concedes that many of the companies may be seeking to establish structures without union involvement, but he points out that most of them recognise the unions.

A European directive coming into force on 22 September stipulates that all organisations with 1,000 employees in the European Union with at least 100 in two countries must set up works councils. Owing to the opt-out from the Social Chap-

TUC list of 40 without EU works councils

Albert Fisher Group	Ladbroke Group
AMEC	Laird Group
BBA Group	LEP Group
Blagden Industries	London International Group
British Aerospace	Lucas Industries
British Vita	Morgan Crucible
BSG International	NFC
Burnham Castrol	Queen's Moat Houses
Caradon	Robert Stephen Holdings
Charter	Sedgwick Group
Chubb Security	Siebe
Cookson Group	Tarmac
Cordiant	Thorn
Dalgety	TI Group
Delta	Tibbitt & Britten Group
General Electric Company	Transport Development
Grand Metropolitan	Vickers
Hewlett	Williams Holdings
IMI	Wolseley
Inchcape	WPP Group

ter of the Maastricht Treaty, British workers do not have to be included in the count or involved in the consultation process.

Mr Monks said yesterday that unless the 40 companies began to negotiate seriously with employees' representatives they would face the im-

position of a standard model for negotiating a works council structure. The TUC said that while British workers can be excluded from the councils, no company has yet registered its intention to do so.

The TUC calculates that the directive applies to 114 British companies, 20 of which have

now reached formal agreement with trade unions. A further 41 are either negotiating or consulting with the unions about an establishment of a council. Another thirteen are believed to be moving towards agreement on a works council system.

Mr Monks said: "Time is running out for the 40 companies who seem to be refusing to have anything to do with a works council structure. There will be no hiding place from the European directive after 22 September. The UK government is powerless to protect them from its decisions."

"Voluntary agreement clearly offers the best route for UK management and companies from every sector have been happy to negotiate appropriate arrangements in advance of this deadline."

Under the European legislation organisations can tailor the consultative procedures to their own needs if they reached agreement before 22 September.

After that date special negotiating bodies have to be set up which will operate within stringent European laws.

New Look plans to open 200 stores

NIGEL COPE

New Look, the womenswear retailer which abandoned its stock market flotation two years ago, is planning to open 200 more stores over the next five years, taking its total to more than 300.

The rapid expansion programme will take the group's total store numbers from 333 to around 530 at the rate of 40 new openings a year. It would make New Look one of the largest fashion chains in Britain along-

side Dorothy Perkins, part of the Burton group, which has more than 400 branches and 100 in-store concessions.

However, the company has no immediate plans for a fresh try at a stock market flotation after the problems in 1994 when its £150m float was pulled at the last minute due to a weak new issues market and a lukewarm reaction from investors.

Gavin Aldred, a director, said: "We have no immediate plans but we have institutional in-

vestors and they are likely to want a float at some stage." It is thought that the company will not seek a flotation until next year.

BZW Private Equity and Prudential Venture Managers paid £170m for 70 per cent of New Look in January. The remaining equity is held by directors and management including founder Tom Singh. Tony Collyer, the former Alders finance director, is to join New Look in a similar role next month.

Last year New Look opened 70 stores, though has decided that figure was too high. The group is looking to open more stores in London and hopes to have around 30 stores within the M25. Mr Aldred says the ceiling for UK stores is 550-600 though it has plans to expand abroad.

There are 19 New Look outlets in France and its first German store opens next month.

Last year the group made operating profits of £24m on sales of around £180m. It expects sales over £250m this year.

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Every Thursday in the
THE INDEPENDENT
section two

business

Marley's record remains patchy

THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY TOM STEVENSON

Marley has spent much of the 1990s attempting to free itself from the UK building cycle and after slashing costs at the roof tiles to plastics group it has focused its attention on expanding its overseas operations, particularly the plastics business, at the expense of the still difficult home market.

Last year's £88m acquisition of Syroco, the leading maker of garden furniture in the US, and a £22m plastics buy in Australia and New Zealand, along with the decision in March to dump the European automotive plastics business, have radically transformed the group. The results have been obscured by a swathe of exceptional items but, even stripping out one-offs, the recent record remains patchy and profits remain well short of the £70m they reached in 1988.

Yesterday's interim results to June were no exception. Reported profits of £63.2m, up from £24.1m, were inflated by a £42.6m gain on the disposal of the automotive business. Leaving that aside, underlying profits sank to £20.6m from £34.1m, hit by higher interest costs and a mixed bag of results from the operating divisions.

The near-10 per cent drop in new housing starts in the home market caused most of the damage. Building products in the UK, where Marley has strong positions in roof tiles, aerated concrete blocks and paving, had a thin time, with concrete tile volumes slipping by close to 15 per cent. The problems were compounded by last year's prolonged winter, which also hit the General Shale bricks business in the US, and operating profits from the group's concrete and clay products division accordingly sank from £9.6m to £4.4m.

The latest clear signs of an upturn in the second-hand housing market must eventually feed through to new build. But plastics, up from £14.4m to £21.3m in the half year, remain the backbone of the business, with nearly all the growth there due to last year's acquisitions.

The Australian business added around £500,000, while Syroco, which was only in for three months last time, raised its contribution from £2m to £7.6m. That is a welcome bounce-back after a dismal second-half performance, but, with sales flat, had more to do with the return of PVC prices to more reasonable levels.

An air of mystery hangs over the group's involvement in plastic chairs, which remains a commodity business, despite Syroco's 25 per cent market share. It puts a question mark over the strategy of further expanding the plastics business overseas, particularly given that current gearing of 29 per cent could give firepower of up to £150m.

Profits of £50m in the full year would put the shares, up 2p at 125p, on a forward multiple of 12. That looks cheap against the market, but given the residual doubts is about right.

Mersey pays the price of dispute

Mersey Docks has a good ports business, operating in a growth market, although it did its best to disguise the fact in the six months to June when profits fell 17 per cent to £13.9m. The running sore of a dispute with sacked dockers and the cost of a foolish foray into ferry services to Holland did the damage and will continue to do so until a compromise can be agreed on the former and a satisfactory withdrawal negotiated from the latter.

Strip out the £4.5m loss recorded by the Eurolink Sheerness to Vlissingen ferry line, the £600,000 legal cost of the unresolved row with the 329 dockers the company sacked last year and £900,000 in one-off severance costs, and

profits actually moved ahead by a useful 15 per cent in the core ports business. Total throughput in Liverpool was up 6 per cent with good performances across the board from oil to general cargo and containers, although the company worries that a continuation of the dispute could hit new business. The Mersey ports appear to have disproved the Jeremiahs who predicted that the Channel Tunnel would wipe out its business.

The problem at Mersey is the same as that afflicting all port operators who get bored running a relatively simple business and think they can improve returns by trying their hand at something else. Hence the silly attempt to protect £1m of docking fees at Sheerness by taking on a passenger and freight service that was closing down.

Running ports is a natural geographical monopoly where operating shipping services, as P&O and Stena have found in the Channel, is open to competition from any Tom, Dick and Harry. Mersey has made headway on the Irish Sea in recent years, but its rivals have twigged and it remains to be seen how much of an impact the new

capacity coming on stream will have. If Mersey makes £33m this year and £40m next time, the shares, down 11p to 40p, trade on a prospective multiple of 17 falling to 13. Given the remaining uncertainty surrounding the Liverpool dispute, a question mark over the final cost of the Eurolink withdrawal and doubts over Irish Sea profits, there is better value in AB Ports and Forth.

EW Fact thrives on competition

The onset of competition in the central London market for accountancy tuition has had a galvanising effect on EW Fact, the market leader. The arrival in 1994 of Professional Accountancy Training, a minnow in the world of accountancy education, sent prices plunging by two-thirds and cut class sizes by over a third. Fact's profits went through the mangle, but last summer it merged its two competing colleges to form AT Emile Woolf Colleges, slashing staff costs by £1m and slicing around £200,000 from the marketing budget by cutting out duplication.

The results are clear from yesterday's half-year results to June. Profits have soared from £272,000 to £932,000, out of which a restored interim dividend of 0.9p is being paid.

Fact's move to match its rival's prices has added 7 per cent to volumes in the first half, while it was able to lift its prices by up to 50 per cent in January. But that is only half the story. The group's efforts to diversify over the past few years are starting to bear fruit. While professional courses remain the core of the business, raising profits from £560,000 to £827,000 in the half year, three other business areas now represent a quarter of group profits.

Business degrees are the group's second most important activity. Meanwhile, a contract to supply study materials to the Chartered Association of Certified Accountants should underpin the fledgling publishing operation.

Suresh Ianna, who is taking over as chairman from the group's anonymous founder Emile Woolf, reckons accountancy training profits will fall to around 40 per cent of the total in a couple of years. That should put the group on a firmer footing and full-year profits of close to £1.9m would put the shares, up 6p at 81p, on a forward p/e of 12. Standing only a few pence above their 1988 flotation price, they are not to be chased too far, despite the lowly rating.

Rentokil's non-execs are in a different league

CITY DIARY

JOHN WILLCOCK

Rentokil's chief executive Clive Thompson is rightly proud of his "Mr Twenty Per Cent" nickname, earned by his company's success in boosting earnings per share and pre-tax profit by 20 per cent a year over the last 14 years.

Now Mr Thompson has appointed two non-executive directors with rather different recent records. The new non-execs are Brian McGowan, chairman of House of Fraser, and former chief executive of Williams Holdings, and Robert Napier, chief executive of Redland.

While Mr McGowan had a sparkling career at Williams, and retired in 1993 "to go fishing," House of Fraser's progress since its listing in April 1994 has been less happy. It floated at 180p and now stands at 172p.

Mr Napier's Redland was finally forced to cut its dividend in 1994 after years of saying it wouldn't, and its share price over the last five years has gone steadily south against the market.

Meanwhile L. John Clark, former chief executive of BET, is persisting with his claim for £3m from Rentokil, following the latter's successful hostile £2.3m takeover of BET. No doubt today's interims from Rentokil will assuage any worries over these developments.

Nick Knight, market strategist with Nomura, clearly got carried away writing his latest note: "Foolie. The new emerging sector."

"Like a small tremor heralding major seismic activity, the earth recently moved for a few lucky fund managers. Holders of Manchester United plc - now on the reserve list for the Mid 250 - will know what we mean. Football is not so much coming home as coming of age, and has a long way to go in a stock market context before the final whistle."

Time for the cold sponge for Nick, I think.



Civil engineers aren't boring - it's official. No wonder Emma Leahy of Alexander Gibb & Partners and Miles Delap of Robert West Consultancy are celebrating. They can go to dinner parties with renewed confidence. Our road and bridge builders have been the butt of endless ribbing over the years due to being listed under "Boring" in Yellow Pages. This heading refers to tunnelling, of course, rather than to any character defects civil engineers may or may not possess.

The Institution of Civil Engineers got heartily fed up with the joke and in May lobbied Yellow Pages for a change in their listing. From September they will be Civil Engineers pure and simple, with all the excitement that implies.

Brian Marber, one of the City's leading technical analysts for 20 years, has teamed up with financial bookmakers IG Index to manage currencies for IG's clients.

This is a first for Mr Marber, who runs his own technical analysis firm, Brian Marber & Co. He has never previously managed money in the currency markets. "No one has ever asked me before," he says. "However, he has known IG's head, Stuart Wheeler, for a long time. 'He persuaded me to give it a go.'"

Mr Wheeler stresses Mr Marber will not be placing bets. IG set up a foreign exchange dealing operation earlier this year, and some clients have asked for a management service. Mr Wheeler says Mr Mar-

ber is "widely respected. Our main worry was getting him through the SFA exams, but he is so distinguished he has been exempted."

1 THE INDEPENDENT

PLAY FORMULA 1 DREAM TEAM
WIN a drive in a grand prix car

Formula 1 Dream Team is just like Fantasy Football: you pick and manage your dream grand prix team to score points over the season.

Even though the grand prix season is underway, it is not too late to join in: pit your wits against other enthusiasts and you could win our prize for the Belgian Grand Prix. The champion of the 1996 grand prix season will win our overall prize, a drive in a Formula One car.

Your team must comprise three drivers, a chassis and an engine; your budget is £40 million. Make your selections from the grand prix shopping list (printed right); the only restriction is that your third driver must come from the £1 million category.

Details of how to enter are given on this page. Remember, there are prizes for the winning Dream Team in each individual grand prix so you can enter a different team for each race.

HOW YOU SCORE

Points are awarded per race to the top six finishers, based on the Formula One World Championship points scoring system (10, 6, 4, 3, 2, 1) but with an extra 10 points awarded to each of the top six finishers. All drivers are eligible to score for a top six finish but can also notch up extra points as follows:

- The fastest driver in race-day warm-up will collect six points, with five for the second and so on down to one point for the sixth quickest.
- Drivers score one point for each place they make up over their grid position. Points are not deducted by losing places.
- Five points are lost if your driver posts first retirement, four for second down to one point lost for the fifth retirement.
- If your driver makes the quickest pit-stop (from the entry of the pitlane to the exit) you gain five points.
- If your driver sets the fastest lap time in the race, you gain five points.
- If your driver receives a stop/go penalty, you lose five points.
- If your driver starts on pole position, you gain five points.
- The Independent will name a Driver of the Day after each race for a particularly impressive performance, worth five points.
- Non-qualification for a grand prix loses you two points. If a driver is on the FIA's published starting grid but fails to



Plus prizes to be won with every grand prix

DREAM TEAM TOP PRIZE

The Dream Team manager with the highest number of points at the end of the Grand Prix Championship season will win our top prize - a drive in a £500,000 F1 car. You will be flown to the 1996 season's training school in the south of France for the most exhilarating experience of your life. The school specialises in F1 courses and provides all the resources and instruction you will need for a day driving F1 and other single seat cars.

BELGIAN GRAND PRIX PRIZE

The Dream Team manager with the highest number of points following the Belgian Grand Prix will win a trip for two to the Belgian Grand Prix. Your team's prize includes tickets to the Saturday practice sessions, as well as the grand prix itself - the following day.

HOW TO ENTER

Choose your Dream Team from the shopping list on this page. Remember, you must choose three drivers (the third from the £1 million section), one chassis and one engine. You must not exceed your budget of £40 million. Give your team a name and register it by ringing 0891 891 805. You will immediately be asked the entry question: How many races are there in this year's Formula One World Championship? To enter your Dream Team details you can use one of two methods. Method 1 uses a tone phone that lets you

key in the code numbers of your driver, chassis and engine choices. The computer will check that your team falls within budget and is eligible.

Method 2 uses a non-tone phone and you give your details verbally. A budget check is not possible using this method. When you have registered your Dream Team, you will be asked to predict the number of points this year's champion will notch up over the year. In case of a tie at the end of the season, the nearest figure to the champion's points will win the top prize. In the event of a further tie, the team that registered first will win. Once you have registered your team you

will be asked for your name, address and telephone number. Your team selections plus your personal details will be played back to you and, when you confirm that they are correct, you will be given a PIN number.

This is confirmation of your entry and will enable you to access the score checking line. There is no limit on the number of teams an individual can enter, but only one team can be registered per call.

CHECKING YOUR SCORE

You can check your team's position at any time by calling 0891 891 806 and quoting your PIN number. If you want to know the individual driver, chassis and engine scores from the most recent race, call 0891 891 807. This line will also list the Top 50 Formula One Dream Teams.

Rules

1. All telephone calls are charged at 39p per minute cheap rate, 49p per minute at all other times, with a typical call to secure your entry lasting between five and seven minutes.
2. The deadline to be included in a particular race is midday the Friday prior to that race.
3. The judge's decision is final, no correspondence will be entered into and there is no cash alternative for prizes.
4. Employees of Newspaper Publishing Plc, Haymarket Publishing Ltd and all associated companies and their families are ineligible.
5. Entrants must be 18 or over and residents of the UK or the Irish Republic.
6. To be eligible for the main prize, you must hold a current driving licence, be no more than 1.95m tall and weigh no more than 220lbs.
7. All scores will be worked out according to the official FIA time sheets produced at the meeting. The values stated for drivers, engines and chassis bear no relation to real life.
8. In the event of a tie for the Dream Team Top Prize or for any of the individual race prizes, the team that registered first will win.
9. For lost PIN numbers please call: 0891 891 808. For our Helpline call: 01275 344183.
10. The Top 50 Teams Line, lists the top 50 teams from the last race. Both the Team Position Check Line and the Results & Top 50 Teams Line will be updated at 2 pm on the Monday following a race.

Shopping List

DRIVERS

- £25m 1 M Schumacher
- £23m 2 J Alesi
- £20m 3 D Hill
- £18m 4 G Berger
- £16m 5 D Coulthard
- £14m 6 E Irvine
- £12m 7 J Villeneuve
- £10m 8 M Hakkinen
- £8m 9 H Frenzen
- £6m 10 M Brundle
- £4m 11 R Barrichello
- £2m 12 J Herbert
- £1m 13 M Salo
- £500k 14 P Lamy
- £15p 15 P Dintz
- £10p 16 U Katayama
- £5p 17 J Verstappen
- £1p 18 O Paris
- £1p 19 I Badoer
- £1p 20 R Rosset
- £1p 21 A Montemini
- £1p 22 G Fischella
- £1p 23 V Sospini
- £1p 24 T Marques
- £1p 25 F Lagorce
- £1p 26 H Noda
- £1p 27 T Inoue
- £1p 28 M Blundell
- £1p 29 J-C Boulton
- £1p 30 K Brack
- £1p 31 K Burt
- £1p 32 E Collard
- £1p 33 N Fontana
- £1p 34 O Franchitti
- £1p 35 N Larini
- £1p 36 J Magnussen
- £1p 37 A Prost
- £1p 38 G Tarquini
- £1p 39 K Wendlinger

CHASSIS

- £20m 40 Benetton
- £18m 41 Williams
- £16m 42 Ferrari
- £14m 43 McLaren
- £12m 44 Sauber
- £10m 45 Jordan
- £8m 46 Ligier
- £6m 47 Tyrrell
- £4m 48 Arrows
- £2m 49 Minardi
- £1m 50 Forti
- £1m 51 Renault
- £1m 52 Ferrari
- £1m 53 Mercedes
- £1m 54 Peugeot
- £1m 55 Mugen
- £1m 56 Ford V10
- £1m 57 Yamaha
- £1m 58 Hart
- £1m 59 Ford Zetec V8
- £1m 60 Ford ED V8

1996 RACE SCHEDULE

- Belgian GP August 25
- Italian GP September 8
- Portuguese GP September 22
- Japanese GP October 13

*Not competing in Belgian GP but may compete later

DREAM TEAM registration: 0891 891 805

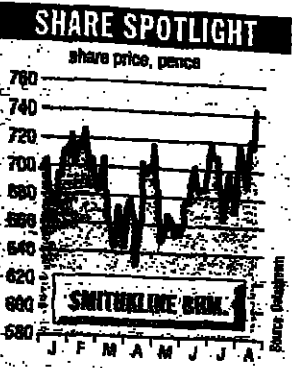
TEAM POSITION CHECK LINE: 0891 891 806
RESULTS & TOP 50 TEAMS: 0891 891 807

صكرا من الاميل

market report/shares

DATA BANK

FT-SE 100	3872.1 -11.1
FT-SE 250	4387.4 +2.1
FT-SE 350	1937.4 -4.2
SEAQ VOLUME	644m shares, 32,834 bargains
GITS Index	93.14 -0.19



Lucas merger with Varsity set to go ahead peacefully

MARKET REPORT

DEREK PAIN
Stock market reporter of the year

Lucas Industries and Varsity, after an eventful courtship, should marry in peace this week. Already Lucas shareholders have approved the deal and resounding support is expected from Varsity investors tomorrow.

The creation of the world's second largest brakes manufacturer will create another upheaval in the blue chip Footsie index.

This week Cookson, the industrial materials group, was unceremoniously dumped to accommodate the Thorn EMI merger.

The £3bn LucasVarsity combination will stake an automatic claim for Footsie membership. Most at risk are Courtalds, the chemical group, and Southern Electric. Shares of the newcomer are due to start trading on 6 September and should become Footsie constituents on 23 September.

The long Anglo-American engagement was often ruffled by rumours of a counter-bid, with US and German predators, as well as our own GKN and TI Group, said to be anxious to barge into the cosy merger. In the event only BBA, for an embarrassingly brief period, emerged as a declared intruder.

The creation of LucasVarsity has allowed Lucas chief executive George Simpson to depart to General Electric Co, leaving the way clear for Varsity's Victor Rice, who has been holding investment meetings with London institutions, to take charge of the merged group.

Lucas shares edged forward 1p to 241.5p in occasionally brisk trading. They have been as high as 254p this year.

The stock market charged to a new trading high with the FT-SE 100 index at one time up 11.2 points at 3,894.4. But it quickly ran out of steam. Weak

Government stocks, uneasy in the futures market and a New York pulled lower by technology shares combined to hinder progress and Footsie ended 11.1 down at 3,872.1.

The supporting 250 index, however, remained on the upward, building on its remarkable run with a 2.1 advance to 4,387.4 - its sixteenth gain on the trot.

Drugs were in fine fettle as those bewitched by bid stories about Zeneca continued to circulate. The shares gained 11p to 1,514p, a peak. Smith-Kline Beecham also found itself pushed into the bid limelight with Roche, the Swiss group so often linked with

Zeneca, named as a likely predator. It, too, found a new high, up 11p to 743p.

British Petroleum remained unsettled as stories swirled of a big line of shares - variously rumoured to be 15 million or 30 million - on offer. Although there was no evidence of a significant placing, the shares at one time fell to 62p, they closed 1.5p off at 627.5p.

The day's most busily traded share was British Gas following the Ofgas review. The price rose 6.5p to 204.5p with Seaq putting turnover at 30.3 million shares.

Dairy shares perked up as Milk Marque agreed to Office of Fair Trading price demands.

Northern Foods added 3p to 205p and Unigate 10p to 432p. Robert Wiseman put on 3p to 174p.

BAT Industries again felt the weight of US litigation with a 10p fall to 446p, largely reflecting heavy ADR turnover.

J Sainsbury dipped 8p to 399p following a £10m profit downgrading to £750m by NatWest Securities; National Westminster Bank was lowered 15p to 674p as SBC Warburg changed its stance from buy to hold.

Railtrack lost its recent exuberance, off 7p to 248.5p as dividend buying was overshadowed by profit taking. Retailers were caught by the lower than expected July sales figures. Marks & Spencer fell 8p to 492.5p and Kingfisher 8p to 660p. But signs of a housing revival lifted Carpetright 21p to 581p.

Ladbroke, still independent

despite the heavy betting on a bid, centered 4p ahead to 201p, anticipating figures next week. The shares are near their 12-month high and speculation continues about the intentions of Hilton Hotels Corporation, the US group which wants to unite the Hilton hotel spread. At the moment HHC has the US rights with Ladbroke the international claim. Bass, with its soap opera bid for the Carlsberg Telleby brewing group still unresolved, is thought to have lost interest in the betting to hotel chain.

Chieftain, the insulation group, gained 9p to 50p on take over hopes; Pillar, the property group, added 9p to 178p. It has held investment meetings and James Capel is said to be positive.

Universal Salvage, a vehicle salvage group, held at 268p. Chairman Cliff Bassett has sold 1 million shares; other major shareholders sold 1.1 million.

TAKING STOCK

□ Inspirations, the holidays group, is attracting another round of takeover speculation. There are persistent stories in the travel industry of a deal with Carlson, a US holidays and hotels group.

It could be structured on similar lines to the Airtours/Carnival Cruise alliance when the Americans took a near 30 per cent interest in the UK's second largest holidays group.

Inspirations rose 3p to 139p, the shares were 91p in February.

□ Llamunir, with 18 discotheques and 14 Chicago Rock Cafes, has enjoyed a month-long market run.

Floated at 200p in May the shares gained a further 14p to 337p. The group has an impressive record and could get caught up in the corporate action developing in the catering industry.

Share Price Data

Prices are in sterling except where stated. The yield is last year's dividend, grossed up by 20 per cent, as a percentage of the share price. The price/earnings (P/E) ratio is the share price divided by last year's earnings per share, including exceptional items.

Other details: Ex rights = Ex-dividend = Ex all a United Securities Market a Suspended = Partly Paid = Nil Paid Shares, 3 AM Stock

Source: FT Information

The Independent Index

The index allows you to access real-time share prices by phone from Seaq. Simply dial 0891 123 335, followed by the 4-digit code printed next to each share. To access the latest financial reports dial 0891 1233 followed by one of the two-digit codes below.

FT-SE 100 - Real-time	00	Starting Rates	04	Prudential Issues	36
UK Stock Market Report	01	Edison Report	05	Water Shares	39
UK Company News	02	Wall St Report	20	Electronic Shares	40
Foreign Exchange	03	Tokyo Market	21	High Street Banks	41

Anyone with a tone-dial telephone can use this service. For a detailed description of The Independent Index, including its portfolio facility, phone 0891 123 333. For assistance, call our helpline 071 673 4376 (9.30am-5.30pm).

Call cost 20p per minute (cheap rates), and 40p at all other times. Call charges include VAT.

Market leaders: Top 20 volumes

Stock	Volume	Stock	Volume	Stock	Volume
British Gas	320,000	Shell	80,000	Unigate	70,000
Bart Scotland	150,000	Prudential	60,000	BT	60,000
Lloyds TSB	100,000	RAF Ind	50,000	Sainsbury	50,000
Thorn	100,000	Harman	50,000	BA	50,000
David Met	100,000	BP	50,000	Guinness	50,000

FT-SE 100 Index hour by hour

Open	10.00	11.00	12.00	13.00	14.00	15.00	16.00	17.00
3894.5 up 11.0	3895.5 up 12.0	3896.5 up 13.0	3897.5 up 14.0	3898.5 up 15.0	3899.5 up 16.0	3900.5 up 17.0	3901.5 up 18.0	3902.5 up 19.0

FT-SE 100 Index hour by hour

Open	10.00	11.00	12.00	13.00	14.00	15.00	16.00	17.00
3894.5 up 11.0	3895.5 up 12.0	3896.5 up 13.0	3897.5 up 14.0	3898.5 up 15.0	3899.5 up 16.0	3900.5 up 17.0	3901.5 up 18.0	3902.5 up 19.0

Telecommunications

Stock	Price	Change	Volume
British Telecom	120.00	+0.50	100,000
Telecom Italia	110.00	+0.20	50,000
Telecom France	100.00	+0.10	30,000
Telecom Spain	90.00	+0.05	20,000

Textiles & Apparel

Stock	Price	Change	Volume
Next	150.00	+0.50	80,000
Primark	140.00	+0.20	60,000
Debenhams	130.00	+0.10	40,000
Primark	120.00	+0.05	30,000

Retailers, General

Stock	Price	Change	Volume
Next	150.00	+0.50	80,000
Primark	140.00	+0.20	60,000
Debenhams	130.00	+0.10	40,000
Primark	120.00	+0.05	30,000

Transport

Stock	Price	Change	Volume
British Airways	100.00	+0.50	50,000
Virgin Atlantic	90.00	+0.20	30,000
EasyJet	80.00	+0.10	20,000
Ryanair	70.00	+0.05	10,000

Support Services

Stock	Price	Change	Volume
British Telecom	120.00	+0.50	100,000
Telecom Italia	110.00	+0.20	50,000
Telecom France	100.00	+0.10	30,000
Telecom Spain	90.00	+0.05	20,000

Water

Stock	Price	Change	Volume
British Water	100.00	+0.50	50,000
Water & Power	90.00	+0.20	30,000
Water & Light	80.00	+0.10	20,000
Water & Gas	70.00	+0.05	10,000

Rights Issues

Stock	Price	Change	Volume
British Telecom	120.00	+0.50	100,000
Telecom Italia	110.00	+0.20	50,000
Telecom France	100.00	+0.10	30,000
Telecom Spain	90.00	+0.05	20,000

Recent Issues

Stock	Price	Change	Volume
British Telecom	120.00	+0.50	100,000
Telecom Italia	110.00	+0.20	50,000
Telecom France	100.00	+0.10	30,000
Telecom Spain	90.00	+0.05	20,000

Government Securities

Stock	Price	Change	Volume
British Telecom	120.00	+0.50	100,000
Telecom Italia	110.00	+0.20	50,000
Telecom France	100.00	+0.10	30,000
Telecom Spain	90.00	+0.05	20,000

Medicines

Stock	Price	Change	Volume
British Telecom	120.00	+0.50	100,000
Telecom Italia	110.00	+0.20	50,000
Telecom France	100.00	+0.10	30,000
Telecom Spain	90.00	+0.05	20,000

Logistics

Stock	Price	Change	Volume
British Telecom	120.00	+0.50	100,000
Telecom Italia	110.00	+0.20	50,000
Telecom France	100.00	+0.10	30,000
Telecom Spain	90.00	+0.05	20,000

Logistics

Stock	Price	Change	Volume
British Telecom	120.00	+0.50	100,000
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Logistics

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Telecom Spain	90.00	+0.05	20,000

Logistics

Stock

business

Politics and taxation are objects of undue speculation

The improved packaging and labelling of economics for mass consumption is welcomed but it is an unfortunate side effect that the upcoming Budget and general election will lead to an unusual amount of shallow economic commentary in the months ahead.

Comments are too often couched in a way that might unnecessarily worry individuals with investments to make. This is a shame as the outlook for the UK economy and the background for investment in UK assets is favourable.

This point is illustrated by considering the two main topics of conversation in the next few months - politics and taxation.

First, politics. Real or supposed political turmoil is good copy, prompts healthy debate and is an excuse for inaction in financial markets. But is politics really a problem for the UK's financial markets? Analysis of both domestic and international factors leads one to think not.

Internationally, a strong case can be made that economic policy in all other major countries is being more influenced by political factors than is so in the UK. The awkwardness of the stances of the respective governments can be seen almost daily.

There are examples from the US and Japan, but it is on the Continent that the problems are greatest. The economic prosperity of France and Germany is being subordinated to the political aim of monetary union. Inaction in the face of record levels of unemployment is pursued in the name of a European vision.

In France, the future of the Bank of France's independence (granted only in 1993) is being questioned in a way that was unimaginable a few months ago.



ECONOMIC VIEW
SIMON BRISCOE

The future of its governor is also in the balance. Not only has he to contend with the rumour mill of the *petites phrases*, but there is a storm cloud gathering from the inquiry into the Crédit Lyonnais episode. All this could be too much for a man from the "wrong" political faction.

A new bank governor with a different political agenda would clearly have the opportunity to follow new economic policies, whatever they are.

In Germany, recent weeks have seen confusing messages from the various government members over

interest rates is irrelevant in comparison with the uncertainties elsewhere.

The UK's new policy framework that has been put in place since sterling was bundled out of the Exchange Rate Mechanism in 1992 is fundamentally different from what went before.

There is a greater degree of openness and accountability in the UK than in any other country. So much so that no other country can have its own equivalent of the Ken and Eddie show because the information -

Real or supposed, political turmoil is good copy - and is an excuse for inaction

the prospects for tax "reform". Reform is simultaneously meant to mean tax cuts to voters (who have a general election vote to cast in 1998) and tax increases to financial markets which want to see fiscal prudence ahead of monetary union.

It is also strongly suspected that there are disagreements within the Bundesbank council about the course of interest rates. They are not one happy family and, despite all the talk of independence, they are largely political appointees.

Disputes of this scale leave anything from the UK's monthly Ken and Eddie interest rates show miles behind. A quarter per cent on or off

most notably change targets and published minutes from meetings - is not available.

It is odd that the Chancellor does not make more of the new policy structure. He has never clearly and fully set it out. It is a shame, as fuller knowledge about it would give businesses, consumers and investors added confidence. The chance of a reckless boom-bust policy in the UK is less now than it has been in living memory.

This brings me to the second of the topics, the Budget. Fiscal policy and taxation are the object of far more speculation than is merited, when most changes involve just in-

creasing around the edges. It is only in very rare circumstances, such as in 1993 when there was need for a corrective action following the recession, that budgets really matter.

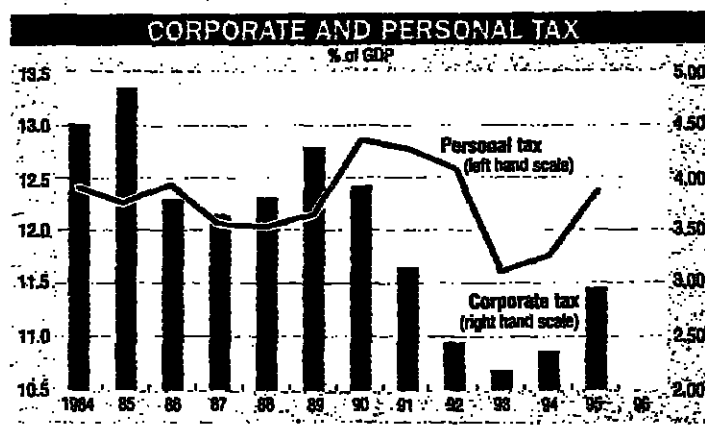
The impact of any Budget tax and spending changes this year will be modest compared with the underlying pressures in the economy of, for example, learning to live with low inflation and job insecurity.

Budget changes will also be small compared to the hand-outs resulting from the building society conversions, some £20bn plus, in a two-year period. Will consumers even notice £2.3bn of tax cuts? These would represent less than half-a-per cent of total consumer spending and barely one-quarter of the handout due next year from the Halifax conversion alone.

The budget is usually now little more than an exercise in public relations. It is almost certain that this year's Budget will be described as "a typical pre-election budget". The same budget a year later would in all probability be described as "a typical post-election budget".

In reality, a change of government will not have the impact on tax and spending policy that it has in the past. This is in part because the Labour Party has changed, but mainly because the new policy structure will act as a constraint. Although not within its remit the Bank of England has in practice a veto on fiscal policy.

Bank disapproval of a tax fiscal stance which threatens higher inflation, will lead to calls for higher interest rates to compensate. Markets would take note and a new Labour government with a novice chancellor would find it hard to resist the call for higher rates. He would have to want the tax cuts or spending



An unique act: No other country is as open as the UK is about debates between Kenneth Clarke (right) and Eddie George

increases desperately if the price is higher interest rates.

The budget rhetoric will, of course, be different with Labour, no doubt describing their budget as "a positive first step", "all that can be afforded", and offering jam tomorrow.

Budgets will be increasingly incremental in the years ahead, becoming ever more just a peg on which to hang criticisms of or praise for the government. They will very rarely contain any measures that alter the big picture.

The coming November Budget will be hailed as a budget for consumers, but it will make little difference to anyone's life. There will, presumably, be a headline grabbing tax break, but probably worth next to nothing.

My own tip for the meaningless centrepiece is a tax break on pressure cookers! (This measure did feature in an Indian budget in the 1980s.) It would help the less well-off, save energy and encourage the consumption of fresh food while maintaining its nutritional content.

Who could complain? Manufacturers of non-pressure cooking pots and microwaves, of course. And as companies and industries are well-represented in the lobbying process, but consumers are not, they will probably get their way.

As the chart shows, however, the burden of taxation that consumers have had to bear has not fallen in recent years in the way that the corporate burden has. Some redress and relief for the consumer - and more than you get from a tax break on pressure cookers - would be in order, despite the timing of the election.

The Budget will not be irresponsible or shocking. There is no need to do anything and the Government will do nothing. We should not look for more and we should be happy with a boring budget. It is a luxury in a difficult world.

Political worries are modest with so little to be done on the main part of the big economic issues. Meanwhile, growth is stable and steady and inflation is low. There is little for the investor to fear.

Simon Briscoe is UK economist at Nikko Europe

Foreign Exchange Rates

Country	Spot	1 month	3 months	D-Mark	Spot	1 month	3 months
US	15506	6-4	10-10	1000	2-1	2-1	2-1
Canada	23205	10-1	52-27	1379	25-24	25-24	25-24
Germany	22705	45-11	140-30	1481	25-24	25-24	25-24
France	78596	132-13	365-34	50881	75-86	217-207	34005
Italy	25505	48-63	142-16	7513	44-91	123-125	102305
Japan	12222	75-70	225-26	7029	45-44	123-125	130550
ECU	12222	75-70	225-26	12888	7-8	23-25	05378
Netherlands	47345	10-1	52-27	10553	6-4	10-10	023071
Denmark	88795	10-1	52-27	57295	85-85	270-220	38948
Norway	12588	65-67	167-74	1676	35-32	107-102	12216
Ireland	10823	7-3	20-1	1815	4-7	12-17	04188
Norway	10823	7-3	20-1	1815	4-7	12-17	04188
Spain	19375	20-31	60-86	5243	42-17	10-80	43941
Sweden	10290	1-4	1-4	14575	22-27	64-72	845404
Switzerland	10896	54-48	85-82	10893	37-34	107-107	44827
Australia	18642	20-31	67-85	12886	19-21	54-58	08548
Hong Kong	11992	10-11	224-70	77340	2-12	15-35	52187
Malaysia	33848	0-0	0-0	24855	4-14	80-80	18822
New Zealand	22432	49-57	133-157	30487	30-30	68-68	05178
Saudi Arabia	18557	0-0	0-0	37695	2-7	5-14	25295
Singapore	21857	0-0	0-0	1415	41-30	108-88	05926

Other Spot Rates

Country	Spot	1 month	3 months	D-Mark	Spot	1 month	3 months
Argentina	15506	6-4	10-10	1000	2-1	2-1	2-1
Australia	15506	6-4	10-10	1000	2-1	2-1	2-1
Brazil	15506	6-4	10-10	1000	2-1	2-1	2-1
Canada	15506	6-4	10-10	1000	2-1	2-1	2-1
China	15506	6-4	10-10	1000	2-1	2-1	2-1
Egypt	15506	6-4	10-10	1000	2-1	2-1	2-1
France	15506	6-4	10-10	1000	2-1	2-1	2-1
Germany	15506	6-4	10-10	1000	2-1	2-1	2-1
Greece	15506	6-4	10-10	1000	2-1	2-1	2-1
India	15506	6-4	10-10	1000	2-1	2-1	2-1
Indonesia	15506	6-4	10-10	1000	2-1	2-1	2-1
Italy	15506	6-4	10-10	1000	2-1	2-1	2-1
Japan	15506	6-4	10-10	1000	2-1	2-1	2-1
Korea	15506	6-4	10-10	1000	2-1	2-1	2-1
Malaysia	15506	6-4	10-10	1000	2-1	2-1	2-1
Netherlands	15506	6-4	10-10	1000	2-1	2-1	2-1
Norway	15506	6-4	10-10	1000	2-1	2-1	2-1
Sweden	15506	6-4	10-10	1000	2-1	2-1	2-1
Switzerland	15506	6-4	10-10	1000	2-1	2-1	2-1
Taiwan	15506	6-4	10-10	1000	2-1	2-1	2-1
Thailand	15506	6-4	10-10	1000	2-1	2-1	2-1
UK	15506	6-4	10-10	1000	2-1	2-1	2-1
USA	15506	6-4	10-10	1000	2-1	2-1	2-1

Interest Rates

Country	Spot	1 month	3 months	D-Mark	Spot	1 month	3 months
US	15506	6-4	10-10	1000	2-1	2-1	2-1
Canada	15506	6-4	10-10	1000	2-1	2-1	2-1
France	15506	6-4	10-10	1000	2-1	2-1	2-1
Germany	15506	6-4	10-10	1000	2-1	2-1	2-1
Italy	15506	6-4	10-10	1000	2-1	2-1	2-1
Japan	15506	6-4	10-10	1000	2-1	2-1	2-1
Netherlands	15506	6-4	10-10	1000	2-1	2-1	2-1
Norway	15506	6-4	10-10	1000	2-1	2-1	2-1
Sweden	15506	6-4	10-10	1000	2-1	2-1	2-1
Switzerland	15506	6-4	10-10	1000	2-1	2-1	2-1
Taiwan	15506	6-4	10-10	1000	2-1	2-1	2-1
Thailand	15506	6-4	10-10	1000	2-1	2-1	2-1
UK	15506	6-4	10-10	1000	2-1	2-1	2-1
USA	15506	6-4	10-10	1000	2-1	2-1	2-1

Money Market Rates

Country	Spot	1 month	3 months	D-Mark	Spot	1 month	3 months
US	15506	6-4	10-10	1000	2-1	2-1	2-1
Canada	15506	6-4	10-10	1000	2-1	2-1	2-1
France	15506	6-4	10-10	1000	2-1	2-1	2-1
Germany	15506	6-4	10-10	1000	2-1	2-1	2-1
Italy	15506	6-4	10-10	1000	2-1	2-1	2-1
Japan	15506	6-4	10-10	1000	2-1	2-1	2-1
Netherlands	15506	6-4	10-10	1000	2-1	2-1	2-1
Norway	15506	6-4	10-10	1000	2-1	2-1	2-1
Sweden	15506	6-4	10-10	1000	2-1	2-1	2-1
Switzerland	15506	6-4	10-10	1000	2-1	2-1	2-1
Taiwan	15506	6-4	10-10	1000	2-1	2-1	2-1
Thailand	15506	6-4	10-10	1000	2-1	2-1	2-1
UK	15506	6-4	10-10	1000	2-1	2-1	2-1
USA	15506	6-4	10-10	1000	2-1	2-1	2-1

Liffe Financial Futures

Contract	Settlement	High/Low	Open	Close
Crude Oil	28.00	27.75-28.25	28.00	28.00
Gold	380.00	379.50-380.50	380.00	380.00
Japanese Yen	100.00	99.50-100.50	100.00	100.00
UK Pound	1.50	1.49-1.51	1.50	1.50
US Dollar	1.00	0.99-1.01	1.00	1.00

Life FTSE Index Option

Contract	Settlement	High/Low	Open	Close
Crude Oil	28.00	27.75-28.25	28.00	28.00
Gold	380.00	379.50-380.50	380.00	380.00
Japanese Yen	100.00	99.50-100.50	100.00	100.00
UK Pound	1.50	1.49-1.51	1.50	1.50
US Dollar	1.00	0.99-1.01	1.00	1.00

Industrial Metals

Contract	Settlement	High/Low	Open	Close
Crude Oil	28.00	27.75-28.25	28.00	28.00
Gold	380.00	379.50-380.50	380.00	380.00
Japanese Yen	100.00	99.50-100.50	100.00	100.00
UK Pound	1.50	1.49-1.51	1.50	1.50
US Dollar	1.00	0.99-1.01	1.00	1.00

Precious Metals

Contract	Settlement	High/Low	Open	Close
Crude Oil	28.00	27.75-28.25	28.00	28.00
Gold	380.00	379.50-380.50	380.00	380.00
Japanese Yen	100.00	99.50-100.50	100.00	100.00
UK Pound	1.50	1.49-1.51	1.50	1.50
US Dollar	1.00	0.99-1.01	1.00	1.00

Latest Unit Trust Prices

Stock	Sell	Buy	Yld	Stock	Sell	Buy	Yld
AXA Equity & Life Unit Trust	100.00	100.00	10.00	AXA Equity & Life Unit Trust	100.00	100.00	10.00
AXA Equity & Life Unit Trust	100.00	100.00	10.00	AXA Equity & Life Unit Trust	100.00	100.00	10.00
AXA Equity & Life Unit Trust	100.00	100.00	10.00	AXA Equity & Life Unit Trust	100.00	100.00	10.00
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AXA Equity & Life Unit Trust	100.00	100.00	10.00	AXA Equity & Life Unit Trust	100.00	100.00	10.00
AXA Equity & Life Unit Trust	100.00	100.00	10.00	AXA Equity & Life Unit Trust	100.00	100.00	10.00

Latest Unit Trust Prices

	Sell	Buy	Yld	Stock
Asia Share	4772	4771	4764	Emerging Mkts
Asia Share	3000	3000	3027	Global
Intl Fund				Gold & Int'l
Intl Fund	13831	13811	13738	Commodity
Intl Fund	6029	6023	6017	Intl Bond
Intl Fund	7824	7829	7824	Asia Bond
Intl Fund	10202	10200	10204	Intl Bond
Intl Fund				Intl Bond
Intl Fund	6242	6488	124	Intl Bond
Intl Fund	923	923	923	Intl Bond
Intl Fund	10238	10238	10234	Intl Bond
Intl Fund	10238	10231	10234	Intl Bond
Intl Fund				Intl Bond
Intl Fund	2370	2250	02	Intl Bond
Intl Fund	16238	16238	16238	Intl Bond
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Cliche for Arc

Classic Cliche will follow an unusual route to Longchamp by completing his Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe preparation at Kempton next month in the Group Three September Stakes. Classic Cliche heads Godolphin's Arc challenge which was successful last year with Lammtarra. He will be supported by Russian Snows, and possibly the International winner, Hallin.

THIRD TEST: Two spinners or not two spinners – selectors ponder best way to attack on The Oval's firm pitch

England to forsake seam in victory quest

Photograph: Robert Hallan

Warwickshire, still in with a chance of retaining the title, have a doubt over Andy Moles for their local derby with Worcestershire at New Road. The opener has an Achilles tendon injury.

they play," Lloyd said yesterday as he made light of Atherton's third failure in a row to secure the Duke ball for his bowlers.

But if the captain struggled this off with a sniping "it's round and it's red, and someone's got to bowl with it," he can console himself with the news that three of his four pace bowlers - Mullanbally, Caddick and Lewis - have all had a break since the last Test. But that is a situation that does not necessarily come with a guarantee, as Graeme Hick knows only too well.

The St Helens coach, Shaun McRae, has turned down an invitation to assist New Zealand in the series, as he did in the World Cup last year.

and be in the team. But it doesn't matter whether I qualify or not. It depends on whether I feel good about playing in the team. I want to get the feeling right and, if it means picking myself, I will."

■ Tommy Horton, the former Ryder Cup player, will be trying to become the first player to win £100,000 prize-money in a season on the European Seniors Tour when he plays in the PGA Seniors Championship at The Belfry today.

when 1-2-30 (Lierkenwell) won the Ebor Handicap at York yesterday afternoon, landed his third winner at three different meetings in the evening. Less than an hour after the Ebor, Stoute struck with General's Star (5-1) in the Minihant Nursery Handicap at Ayr. And his Entrepreneur was a comfortable five-length winner of the evening's Confederacy Maiden Stakes at Kempton at odds of 1-2. The across-the-card treble paid 84/-.

هكذا من الاصل

Wembley prices rise for World Cup

Football
GLENN MOORE

The Football Association has gambled on Glenn Hoddle's England maintaining the wave of patriotism which filled Wembley during Euro 96.

It was revealed yesterday that despite attracting an average of less than 30,000 to last season's six pre-Euro 96 matches, the governing body has refused to cut ticket prices. Instead, the FA has increased prices for the World Cup qualifiers, taking the cheapest seats to £14 (for a terrible view) and the most expensive to £40 (for a stunning one).

In one concession to complaints, the FA has agreed to introduce a two-tier pricing policy. Prices for the matches against Georgia (30 April 1997) and Moldova (10 September 1997) will be marginally lower than those against Poland (9 October) and Italy (12 February 1997).

This means the bulk of tickets, previously £20-23, will cost £22-24 for the cheaper matches and £26-28 for the others. Prices for friendly matches are yet to be decided.

The decision is a victory for the hardliners on the match and grounds committee. They insisted that last season's gates were poor because the matches were meaningless, they believe, the combination of football's popularity and the lure of the World Cup will ensure Wembley is filled.

They also noted that these prices are not much higher than at Premiership grounds. Since some of them are also the chair-

men who set those prices, that is not particularly surprising. England will be given a helping hand as they attempt to fill Wembley and match expectations. In an effort to recreate Wembley's summer euphoria, the FA is to ask Frank Skinner and David Baddiel either to update "Three Lions" or to write a new theme song. As at Euro 96, leading pop figures will start the singing of the national anthem.

Duncan Ferguson's international exile looks set to end today when Craig Brown, the Scotland manager, names his squad for the start of their World Cup qualifying campaign. Scotland travel to Vienna for their opening against Austria on 31 August, and Brown looks set to recall the Everton striker, who has not played for Scotland for 20 months. Ferguson won the last of his five caps in a 1-0 defeat in Greece in December 1994 during the qualifying campaign for Euro 96.

Brown has set his squad a target of seven points from a possible nine in their first three games. The visit to Vienna is followed by a double-header in Latvia and Estonia in October.

The decision to give us an ideal start and set us up for the first home game against Sweden in November, Brown said. "But it certainly won't be easy. Austria away is one of our toughest fixtures and we deliberately wanted to play them first."

Austria beat the Czech Republic just before the start of Euro 96 and have made a lot of progress since we beat them in a friendly in Vienna in April 1994. But we have traditional-

ly done well in qualifiers at the start of our season when the players are fresh, and I hope that is the case again.

"When we went to Finland at the start of the Euro 96 qualifying campaign, we got off to a flyer with a 2-0 win and it later proved a very significant result. "After Austria, we have the first double-header which will provide us with two very important games in five days."

Brown looks unlikely to jettison many of his Euro 96 squad who won plaudits for their displays against the Netherlands, England and Switzerland.

Tommy Stewart's Celtic's Jackie McNamara may step up from the Under-21 squad which reached the last four in Europe last season.

McNamara's Celtic teammate Phil O'Donnell also looked a likely contender until he suffered a muscle tear last week. The Aberdeen captain, Stewart McKimmie, is another player injured, as is Alan McLaren of Rangers. The Under-21 squad to face Austria away on 30 August will also be named at Hampden today.

Hearts aim to add Red Star Belgrade to their list of European conquests at Tynecastle in tonight's Cup-Winners' Cup qualifying round.

In recent years, Bayern Munich, Bologna and Atletico Madrid have lost at Hearts, and Jim Jeffries, the Hearts manager, knows that Red Star's scalp would be an impressive addition to that roll.

"They are a quality team and it will be one of the best results in Hearts' history if we can beat them," said Jeffries, whose side drew the first leg 0-0 in Belgrade two weeks ago.

"They are a young side and we are getting them at the right time. Their stadium has a running track around it and the crowd is back from the pitch."

"They will not relish the atmosphere at Tynecastle when the crowd is right on top of them. But we have to be patient and we have to keep our discipline."

Hearts have doubts over their goalkeeper Gilles Roussel, who has a virus, and the midfielder Neil Poynton, who has a groin strain. Both missed training yesterday, but Jeffries is hoping that they will be available.

Colin Cameron, Dave McPherson, Pasquale Bruno and Neil McCann have all been passed fit and are definitely in contention.

Cameron, who impressed in the first leg, stressed the need for a patient approach. "I don't think we need to push everybody forward at the start," he said. "We just have to gradually build it up throughout the game. After all, we don't go out if it's 0-0 after 90 minutes - it just goes to extra time."

"If we get an early goal, it'll maybe settle us, but if we don't, then we want the fans to keep getting behind us."

Hearts are aware of the danger of Yugoslav Perica Orgenovic, who at 19, is already rated in the £4m class. Red Star have no major injury worries and Vladimir Petrovic, the Red Star coach, said: "We're confident we will go through."

which they had been paid to pay for four close-season out-of-contract signings.

Plymouth Argyle's Second Division match against Preston North End, originally scheduled to be played on Saturday 31 August, will now take place on Friday 20 August at 7.45 and will be televised by Sky TV.

Osasun Luis Merodio, the former manager of England's most promising players, Barry Boshell, 22, from Tottenham, and 21-year-old Wayne Henry of Totting.

Baseball
Cyrus Palace, the Budweiser League side who have a long tradition of developing young talent, have signed two of England's most promising players, Barry Boshell, 22, from Tottenham, and 21-year-old Wayne Henry of Totting.

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on August 19, 1996. The match was played at Tynecastle, Glasgow.

Hearts won the match 2-0, with goals from Barry Boshell and Wayne Henry. The match was a significant victory for Hearts, who were looking to establish themselves in the Scottish Premier League.

The match was attended by a large crowd of fans, who were looking forward to seeing the new signings in action. The match was a success for Hearts, who were looking to establish themselves in the Scottish Premier League.

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Scientist supports legalising steroids

Drugs in sport

A leading South African sports scientist has said drugs should be legalised in sport to end the "does he, doesn't he?" debate once and for all.

Dr John Hawley, director of the High Performance Laboratory at the South African Sports Science Institute in Cape Town, was quoted in the September issue of *SA Sports Illustrated* as saying it was no longer possible to tell who was "clean" and who was not.

He said many athletes at last month's Atlanta Olympics have had to make a choice of whether they are going to take performance-enhancing drugs. "Whenever anyone stands up there on the podium I don't know whether it's them or the drugs," Hawley said.

"You can't ignore it. There's no question that drugs are a big part of today's superior performances."

"I'm not going to mention any names but you look at the physiques of those guys... you just don't get pectoral muscles like that from huge bench presses."

In the strength and power events I would say that as many as 50 per cent of competitors at the Olympics have used performance-enhancing drugs, maybe more."

He said the only way to recreate a level playing field was to consider legalising the use of steroids and other enhancers.

"Maybe we should just make steroids legal. As unethical and as morally wrong as it sounds I actually think that's the way to go."

It's an ethical problem. There's no question whether I or anyone else at this institute stand medicinally - steroids are illegal and performance-enhancing."

He claimed Atlanta's highly publicised doping laboratory had been a public relations exercise. "The public has been whitewashed into thinking that drugs enhance athletes the week before competition - they don't. Steroids help in training in the winter months long before the competitions," Hawley said.

"If an athlete stops using steroids three months before competition they won't be detected."

Hawley had been asked to theorise on how world records would ultimately fall.

"If you are asking me what are the limits to human performance, we have already surpassed them. Most of these are drug records."

TODAY'S NUMBER

2

The number of times in 24 hours Alex Higgins has withdrawn from a snooker event objecting to the referee. Yesterday he pulled out of the British Open and on Tuesday he withdrew from the Thai Open.

Injury forces Becker out

Tennis

Boris Becker has withdrawn from the US Open, which begins on Monday. Becker, who won the title in 1989, is still suffering from the wrist injury he sustained at Wimbledon.

Mary Pierce of France and America's Meredith McGrath have also pulled out of the year's final Grand Slam tournament. Pierce is troubled by an injury to her right shoulder, while McGrath, who reached the Wimbledon semi-finals this year, has a knee injury.

The French Open champion, Yevgeny Kafelnikov, was included in yesterday's draw,

but the Russian considers himself questionable after pulling out of the Hamlet Cup on Tuesday with a rib injury.

